Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 104 | THURSDAY MAY 3, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you intend to visit the Taste of the Marianas anytime this month?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

British lawmakers call Rupert Murdoch unfit to run his global media empire. ➤ PAGE 13

ASIA

President Barack Obama sees a "new day" one year after Osama bin Laden's death. ➤ PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

The Jessica Simpson baby watch is finally over. ➤ PAGE 21

Man allegedly goes on shopping spree with stolen credit card. PAGE 3
Car buyers splurge in April; vehicle sales up 55 percent. PAGE 5

DPS airs laundry list of woes

» From only 3 working patrol vehicles to 11-year promotions freeze

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If it sometimes takes police officers awhile to respond to an emergency, it may be because the available patrol car overheated on its way and "this is not an exaggeration," acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro told members of the House Ways and Means Committee on Capital Hill yesterday.

Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) committee hearing on DPS' fiscal year 2013 budget unearthed a long laundry list of woes that include having only three working patrol vehicles that cover an estimated Saipan population of 48,220; a freeze in promotion for at least 11 years; and lots of overtime because of a manpower shortage.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), standing left, confers with acting Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro during a House Ways and Means Committee hearing on DPS' fiscal year 2013 budget on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. Looking on is DPS Police Director Aniceto Ogumoro, seated right, and other DPS officials.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ogumoro told lawmakers that they are only able to sustain operations by augmenting the three patrol cars with four traffic vehicles, boating safety and other DPS vehicles.

Another three to four patrol cars are in auto shops because of problems with radiator or water pump or transmission, among other things. The rest of the original 20 fleet are now beyond repair.

Ogumoro said the ideal number of patrol cars for Saipan is at least 20.

"While we're trying to fix one vehicle, another breaks down. Vehicles also have a lifespan, wear and tear. There will come a time they need to be taken off the streets," said DPS Fire director Tom Manglona.

Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* after the

See DPS on Page 4

EPA keeps eye on proposed disposal of tsunami debris on Pagan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is keeping an eye on a plan to ship pretreated tsunami debris from Japan to the CNMI island of Pagan for disposal and recycling.

CNMI residents expressing opposition to the project have been looking forward to hearing from EPA on the matter.

The Japanese investor group also plans to mine at least 10 million metric tons of pozzolan on Pagan for 10 to 15 years.

Oku Shigeharu, chairman of Japan Southwest Islands Security Institute and one of those who visited Pagan on Friday, said the tsunami debris that they plan to

See EPA on Page 4

'Misconceptions for keeping Article 12'

Citizens for Change of Article 12 led by its chair, Efrain F. Camacho, encouraged the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other members of the community to support a signature campaign to place the Article 12 question on the Nov. 6 ballot—whether they want to retain or repeal it.

See story on Page 2

Marianas-wide history conference in June

At least 50 individual presentations and papers covering ancient through recent history of the Marianas archipelago will be discussed in the first Marianas History Conference on Saipan next month.

See story on Page 6

Local

CCART 12 drums up support for drive to put Article 12 on ballot

» 'Misconceptions for keeping Article 12, why it needs to be repealed'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citizens for Change of Article 12 led by its chair, Efrain F. Camacho, encouraged the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other members of the community to support a signature campaign to place the Article 12 question on the Nov. 6 ballot—whether they want to retain or repeal it.

Article 12 of the NMI Constitution restricts the ownership of land in the CNMI to only persons of Northern Marianas descent, or NMD.

CCART 12 is currently circulating a petition to have the question placed on the ballot during the midterm election for the public to vote whether to retain Article 12 or repeal it.

"Signing the petition does not mean you are for or against Article 12. Your signature only says that you want Article 12 to be put on the ballot for the voters to vote on," Camacho, one of the guest speakers at yesterday's Chamber monthly meeting, told the audience at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Citizens for Change of Article 12 chair Efrain F. Camacho makes a presentation at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. CCART 12 urges the community to sign a petition to place the Article 12 question in the Nov. 6 ballot, whether they are for or against repealing or retaining it.

The group later said they still have lots of signatures to gather to meet their target of at least 8,000 signatures, just to be on the safe side.

CCART 12 wants Article 12 to be abolished or repealed in its entirety.

During their presentation yesterday, CCART 12 members Vince Seman, Alex Sablan, and Camacho enumerated misconceptions for keeping Article 12 and the reasons for repealing it, among other things.

They said it's only a misconception that NMDs will lose their culture or NMDs will become landless if Article 12 is repealed.

"NMDs are already becoming landless as sales are rampant due to poor economic conditions," they said.

They added that current NMDs are already losing their land because of the blood quantum requirement. They said future generations will lose their right to own or inherit land from their parents if blood quantum continues to be diluted.

CCART 12 also said it's a misconception that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is driving away investors, not Article 12.

"Many factors are driving away investors, not just one," the group said.

The group said it's a misconception that few NMDs will get rich.

"Now, only few buyers can control sale price. Repeal of Article 12 will pass value directly to owner," they said.

Why repeal Article 12?

CCART 12 has been studying, researching and discussing Article 12 for over three years now.

Camacho said many NMDs are marrying outside the Chamorro/Carolinian bloodline. Several NMDs are now only 25 percent NMD and most likely will be marrying non-NMDs.

"So how is Article 12 protecting an NMD that is less than 25 percent bloodline?" he asked.

He said the framers of the Constitution felt that after 25 years, one generation, people would be educated and prepared to make their own decisions about their personal property.

"I do not feel that the government or anyone should have a say on what I do with my private land. There are some that see Article 12 as protecting the land so it can be handed down to future generations. I do not feel that a law is needed for that. Private land is private and it should be up to the owner to decide," he said.

Camacho reiterated that abolishing Article 12 will not force anyone to sell their land.

"You can lease it, you can leave it as is or you can sell it but it would be under very different condition. One that would favor landowners," he added.

The group pointed out that that an adopted child, say, from Egypt and without any NMD blood, becomes 100 percent NMD because of Article 12, whereas the child of an NMD and a non-NMD is only 50 percent NMD.

CCART 12 said Article 12 needs to be repealed because it

See CCART on Page 4

Special Promo: $16.95/case
REGULAR PRICE $17.50

FOR KIND CAR PRODUCTS 580ML AND
CHINA GATE GREENTEA WITH HONEY 500ML

APEX CORPORATION dba ROYAL SUPPLIES
P.O. BOX 504540 SAIPAN, MP 96950 • TEL: 288-3388 FAX: 288-3389
LOCATED AT KOBLERVILLE

HEALTH WALK
MAY 5, 2012
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field
– Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS
Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

Man allegedly goes on shopping spree with stolen credit card

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man arrested by federal agents last month for allegedly cashing fraudulent CNMI tax refund checks in grocery stores was arrested again Tuesday, this time on charges that he used a stolen credit card to splurge on electronic gadgets and items.

Police served Earl Eric Cruz Mirano, 32, with an arrest warrant on charges of misuse of credit card and theft by deception.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman allowed Mirano yesterday to post a bail of $500 cash and $4,500 unsecured bond.

Police detective Alexander Sakisat stated in his report that Mirano bought a total of $2,214 worth of items from the Bond's Electronics in Chalan Kanoa. The storeowner, Komgish Tannakan, allegedly claimed that Mirano purchased several items using a credit card.

Tannakan stated that the card was broken but Mirano made an offline purchase with the card by typing a 16-digit security code.

Mirano allegedly bought a Sony home theater system, a Samsung GSM phone, a Sony GSM phone touch screen, a Toshiba LED 32-inch flat screen TV, and four cameras for home use.

Tannakan prepared a promissory note dated April 18, 2012, stating that Mirano avers that the items were paid to Bond's Computer Land using a card and that the money belongs to Mirano.

Mirano

Tannakan stated that he held on to the items and on April 19, 2012, he checked his bank account and learned that the money in the amount for the purchases had already been transferred.

Tannakan then called Mirano to pick up the items. Mirano then signed the promissory note. The businessman delivered the items to Mirano's residence in Chalan Kanoa.

Later that same day, Mirano returned to the shop and made a second purchase in the amount of $10,000 for Dell brand computers, telling Tannakan that he was opening a computer shop in Koblerville.

Tannakan placed the order for 10 pieces of computers and told Mirano it will take 45 days. Mirano typed in the security code again and the purchase went through.

The following day, April 20, a Bank of Hawaii staff called Tannakan, but the businessman was not in his shop. Three days later, the Bank of Hawaii staff was able to talk with Tannakan on the phone and told him that the credit card was a fraudulent one. The bank staff advised Tannakan to file a police report.

Further investigation showed that the credit card used by Mirano was reported stolen in October 2011, detective Sakisat said.

The credit card was used earlier this year at the Mobil gas station in Chalan Piao, Publix Market in Susupe, and Magan-da Utang in Garapan.

GARAPAN CLEANUP MVA

Over 30 community volunteers helped clean up the main tourist district of Garapan, Saipan on April 23, 2012, in preparation for Golden Week visitors. Members of Japan Saipan Travel Association, Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association, Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Marianas Visitors Authority netted over 200 lbs. of trash.

Saipan mayor's suit vs FHB dismissed anew

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed again yesterday Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores' claims against the First Hawaiian Bank but allowed him to amend his lawsuit.

Manglona said that if discovery on the remaining causes of action against FHB's co-defendant, Union Bank of California, unearths evidence that FHB acquired Flores' certificate of deposit when it bought the Union Bank Saipan branch in 2001, "justice may require that Flores be permitted to amend again."

In granting FHB's motion to dismiss, Manglona said that Flores had years to investigate this matter before suing and to have developed factual allegations that would support his claims against FHB, yet he has failed to do so.

Flores is suing Union Bank and FHB for allegedly refusing to return the principal and interest earned on a certificate of deposit in the amount of $200,000 that he bought from the then Union Bank Saipan branch in 1993.

On Nov. 15, 2001, Union Bank sold all assets and liabilities of its Saipan branch office to FHB.

Flores then sued the two banks for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, negligence or gross negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud.

In March, Manglona granted FHB's motion to dismiss Flores' suit, ruling that Flores may maintain an action against Union Bank for breach of contract and negligence but fails to state a claim in his complaint against FHB.

Flores then filed an amended complaint against the two banks. He revived his claims against FHB for breach of contract, negligence, and fraud and raised two new claims: violation of the Consumer Protection Act and bad faith. Flores put in additional facts to cure the defects in his original complaint.

FHB then filed a motion to dismiss the amended complaint, asserting that the new facts actually make Flores's claims less plausible than they were before. FHB argued that adding two new claims was an improper attempt to expand the lawsuit after dismissal.

Manglona heard the motion last April 12. Union Bank did not join FHB's motion to dismiss.

In her order issued yesterday, Manglona ruled that the allegations in Flores's amended complaint do not plausibly suggest that Union Bank transferred to FHB its obligations on Flores' CD. "Therefore, Flores has not made out a claim for relief against First Hawaiian in breach of contract or negligence," the judge said.

Manglona said that Flores also claims that FHB, through some of the same officers and employees that had worked for Union Bank, intentionally participated in "fraudulent cover-up and withholding of information of the status of Flores' CD, for the benefit of First Hawaiian."

Manglona said even if this conspiracy to defraud actually happened, Flores did not fall for it.

"He never believed the alleged misrepresentation and so never acted, or forebore from acting, in justifiable reliance on it or suffered an injury because of it," the judge said.

Even if express assumption of the debt cannot be shown, Manglona said that Flores seems to believe that any $200,000 sitting in the vault when FHB took over the Union Bank Saipan branch must be his $200,000, consigned to FHB for safe keeping.

"This is not a sound legal theory on which to base recovery. Flores did not leave money in a safe deposit box; he deposited money in a bank," Manglona said.

She said that Flores cannot recover damages merely on a showing that FHB mishandled its own records.

No buyer for Fund's member home loan program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund failed to rustle up a buyer for its member home loan program, according to administrator Richard Villagomez.

Fund legal counsel Christopher Timmons noted in Tuesday's regular board meeting that the pension agency received some inquiries but no proposals were actually submitted.

The member home loan program is one of the three local investments of the Fund and is up for sale. The other two portfolios are the Commonwealth Government Credit Union and the receivables for the Judicial Building loan.

The member home loan program has 104 accounts and the principal amounts to $5.2 million.

Saipan Tribune files show that the request for proposals for the member home loan program was issued on Feb. 8 and closed on March 12.

Should there be interest in the program in the future, Villagomez said they will reissue the RFP "and see what the proposal is."

The sale of the Commonwealth Government Credit Union, meanwhile, had "some conditions on the loan agreement that didn't allow for it," said Villagomez.

Timmons, for his part, disclosed that they received a letter from the Office of the Attorney General offering "real property" on Tinian and Rota "in partial satisfaction of the credit union."

He said he asked the OAG "to give us some specifics so we'll consider it."

You can lose everything you've saved from a single car accident.
It doesn't have to be this way if you invest in insurance.

Pacifica Loyalty
Save hundreds through our loyalty program.

Call us today!

pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
General Agents for:
TOKIO MARINE PACIFIC
CIC Century Insurance
Tel: (670) 234-6267
Email: piui@pacificains.com
www.pacificains.com

Since 1973.
Auto.Property.Liability.Marine.Life.Health.Worker's Compensation

Inaugural Savor Guam Food Festival deliciously successful

The Savor Guam Food Festival held on April 22, 2012, was a great success and drew more than 500 people. Ten teams of Guam Community College student chefs competed for People's Choice and Grand Championship titles using only local fish and vegetables.

UOG Sea Grant, led by Laura Filimon Biggs, sourced 600 lbs of locally farmed tilapia filets and 300 lbs of mahi filets caught in the waters of Guam by local fishermen. Local eggplant, corn, cherry tomatoes, and breadfruit were the chosen vegetables. Each team had to prepare dishes using both fish and all the vegetables.

"With only local ingredients, you really have to embrace the culture," said Taylor Flores, student participant.

Payless gift cards provided to each team allowed the teams to purchase spices, oils, and supplemental ingredients. All samples were free and patrons raved about all the creations the chefs came up with.

Many locals don't care for tilapia but the GCC student chefs showed that fresh local tilapia could be prepared in the most gourmet fashion.

Dr. Gong, aquaculturist at UOG Fadian hatchery, said, "The mild taste of UOG's tilapia is due to the high quality seedlings, clean water, and best management practices by the dedicated hatchery staff."

Locally farmed tilapia can be purchased at the Dededo flea market. "Don't be shy and get to know your farmers so you can better understand their operations and know that your food is the product of best management practices," said Biggs.

At the Festival, patrons listened to the sounds of local bands hosted by Island Stylin Reggae local Nyah Joe while sampling the creations from the Power Puff Girls, Cycle 9 Mixers, Pokemon, W.T.F (Where's the Food), The Amazing Team, Munga Mamalao, and Maila Yan Boka.

Patrons sampled the beautiful creations from each team, submitting votes for the People's Choice award. Team Zen topped the board for "Best Mahi" dish. Team M.O.B. declared double victory claiming "Best Tilapia" and "Best Vegetable" dishes.

A panel of local chefs and food experts judged each teams preparations, announcing Team Munga Mamalao as the 2012 Grand Champions. Girlie Barcinas and Taylor Flores "felt very liberated" as it was their first year in the program and their first win "that's big accomplishment and it made us very proud!"

This event was made possible by UOG Sea Grant, GCC, Guam EPA, The Beach Bar and Grill, Department of Agriculture, Guam Fishermans' Co-op, KUAM, Local Guam, IDI, I*recycle, and Power 98. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Munga Mamalao was named the 2012 Grand Champion of the Savor Guam Food Festival. Pictured are, front, Munga Mamalao team members Girlie Barcinas and Taylor Flores. In the background is UOG Assistant Professor Laura Filimon Biggs of the UOG Sea Grant Program.

Man who shattered windshields gets 6-day sentence

A man who shattered the back windshields of two parked cars by throwing rocks after an argument with his girlfriend was slapped with a six-day prison term.

In a written order issued Tuesday, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Fiden Teregeyo Hamo to a year in prison, all suspended except for six days, for criminal mischief, with credit for the six days he has already served in prison. This means the 23-year-old Hamo will immediately go free.

He was placed, however, on probation for two years and required to pay $631 and $571 in restitutions to Chito R. Fitial and Xuan Bo Lu respectively for damage to both of their vehicles and to write a letter of apology to the victims.

Hamo was also ordered to pay $200 in probation fee, a $100 fine, and $25 court fee. He was required to perform 200 hours of community service.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 3, 2012 on Saipan, Hamo shattered the back windshields of two vehicles with rocks. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

EPA

From Page 1

bring to Pagan will be pretreated and certified as such by the Japanese government, non-toxic, and non-radioactive. He said they are very much aware of Japanese and international laws that prohibit the shipment of highly toxic materials from one country to another.

He said at least 80 percent of the tsunami debris from Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures will be recycled on Pagan and brought back to Japan and other destinations.

The U.S. federal law that regulates the management of non-hazardous solid waste, which includes disposal landfills and some other means, is Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA.

EPA Region 9 administrator Jared Blumenfeld, in a reply to an email interview, said yesterday that all those dealing with solid waste in the CNMI as well as everywhere else in the United States must comply with this law.

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality is delegated to implement and carry out the requirements and enforcement of the provisions of the RCRA Subtitle D law and its regulations. DEQ is the lead decision-making authority overseeing solid waste management in CNMI.

As for the disposal of hazardous waste, DEQ has not been authorized by EPA to carry out the requirements, enforcement, and oversight under the federal law, particularly RCRA Subtitle C.

"In the CNMI, U.S. EPA remains the primary agency with oversight of the management of hazardous waste disposal," Blumenfeld told *Saipan Tribune*.

In addition and separate from RCRA, a project may be subject to other requirements, such as, if a proposed project requires a federal permit, is federally funded, or needs other federal approval, it may be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, Blumenfeld said. That may include the need to complete an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.

"In addition, building a harbor or dock or airstrip facilities that may require placement of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S., including wetlands and other special aquatic sites under the Clean Water Act and its regulations, would require an U.S. Army Corps permit," the EPA Region 9 administrator added.

EPA Region 9 covers California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, the CNMI, Guam and other Pacific Islands, as well as 147 tribal nations.

This early, some CNMI residents have expressed opposition to the plan of turning Pagan into a tsunami debris disposal and recycling island.

Efrain F. Camacho, president of EFC Engineers & Architects, said that based on his experience, mining pozzolan on Pagan and bringing tsunami debris to the island is a "losing proposition."

"It will be very difficult. The federal permitting alone will take years, maybe five years. And it will need only one person to take them to court and it will get stuck in court for years," Camacho said.

There is also, of course, local permitting, which could also take considerable time.

"But if this project is supported by the administration, local permitting may not take long. It's the federal permitting process that will take much longer. That may include getting approval from EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers," Camacho added.

Camacho, a former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president, said that their experience with the construction of the former Hotel Nikko, for example, took them three years to hurdle the federal permitting process.

The Japanese investors, after visiting Pagan on Friday morning to afternoon, met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos Friday night.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the governor and lieutenant governor have requested "a business plan that would entail what exactly these investors have planned for both the proposed shipment of debris, recycling of material, and mining and shipment of pozzolan."

"Once a plan is submitted, the governor and lieutenant governor will review it and make decisions based on what is best for the Commonwealth as a whole," he said.

The CNMI government has for years wanted to earn revenue from pozzolan deposits on Pagan, but the costly logistics, especially the shipment of material, has been restricting this type of endeavor.

Isamu Tokuichi, chairman of the board of Kansai Oil Co. and president of New Energy Corp., is leading a group of Japanese investors in planning to mine pozzolan. To offset the shipping costs, they plan to bring in pretreated and mostly recyclable tsunami debris from Japan to Pagan, and then load the same ship with pozzolan from Pagan to Japan.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the Japanese government pays for the off-site disposal of tsunami debris.

DPS

From Page 1

budget hearing that DPS also could not immediately take vehicles out of auto shops because DPS owes these businesses some $12,000 for previous repairs and maintenance.

While police officers can at least go home and take a rest after their shift, DPS patrol cars are in use 24 hours, adding to the normal wear and tear of vehicles. Most of these vehicles were bought more than a decade ago.

DPS also has meager funds for vehicle fuel and maintenance, only about $400,000 under the governor's proposed budget.

Manglona said that DPS incurs an average of $40,000 a month for fuel, which adds up to almost half a million a year. That does not even include the cost of emergency repairs and maintenance, nor does it factor in the increasing cost of fuel.

"There's nothing else for maintenance," Manglona told lawmakers.

Governor's budget

DPS asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for a $10 million budget in fiscal year 2013.

Fitial, in his $102 million budget submission to the Legislature, gave DPS only a little over $8 million. This is already an increase of $2 million from the 2012 budget of some $6 million.

"That's welcome news that DPS will have a $2-million increase," Basa said.

Ogumoro said the department is also thankful for the proposed $2-million increase but he said this is not enough to sustain DPS' operations. He asked lawmakers to consider giving DPS more than $8 million.

Ogumoro said the governor's proposed overtime funding is $49,000 for the whole year, and that amount could be easily used up in three pay periods.

He said DPS incurs overtime because it lacks manpower, so the existing personnel have to work more than regular work hours.

"We're looking at, at least $140,000 for overtime…due to the fact we're short of manpower," he said later.

At the budget hearing, Ogumoro and Manglona were joined by DPS Police chief Aniceto Ogumoro, Capt. Lawrence Camacho, and other DPS officials and personnel.

'No promotions'

Ogumoro said that DPS has not had police officer promotion with pay increases for 11 years because of a public law signed in 1999.

He asked lawmakers to amend that law, so that DPS will be able to promote deserving police officers to ranks of captains and lieutenants, for example.

Ogumoro also pointed out that every time a police officer resigns or retires, the position is eliminated.

House Ways and Means Committee members led by Basa took turns asking DPS officials about the department's funding needs. Most of the lawmakers said they support DPS and the critical role it plays in the community. But there's no assurance, given that DPS will be given more than the governor had already given.

DPS commissioner

Ogumoro, the DPS deputy commissioner, has been designated acting DPS commissioner since March after Fitial placed former DPS commissioner Ray Mafnas on administrative leave before removing him last week.

Fitial, however, retained Mafnas as Department of Corrections commissioner.

Ogumoro said yesterday that he is still acting DPS commissioner and "I just still continue to carry out my daily assignment."

When asked whether he would like to be DPS commissioner, he said, "If I were given the opportunity."

The House Ways and Means Committee's budget hearings will continue today.

CCART

From Page 2

interferes with an individual's right to self-determination.

The group said Article 12 hinders economic growth because, among other things, it causes land value to drop to an all-time low; banks are reluctant to make real estate mortgage loans; Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Affairs bar lending; existing businesses are not interested in major improvements; and 99-year leases not only delay the inevitable and do not fully address other problems mentioned here.

'Opposite view invited'

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce said yesterday that they are also inviting people opposed to the repeal of Article 12 to speak before Chamber members and guests "and state their reasons for doing so."

"We will give them equal time to state their case, as well," said the Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

Attorney General Ed Buckingham issued a legal opinion last week stating that a person who is not of Northern Marianas descent may validly sign a popular initiative petition proposing to amend Article 12 of the Commonwealth Constitution, and the AG will count his or her signature provided that he or she is qualified and registered to vote in the Commonwealth.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986. That 25-year period ended in 2011.

The Covenant established the political relationship between the United States and the Northern Marianas.

Car buyers splurge in April; vehicle sales up 55 percent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vehicle sales increased by 55 percent in April, bringing the year-to-date sales growth to 25 percent, based on the latest data from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association.

A total of 68 new cars, vans, trucks and sports utility vehicles made their way to consumers in April, compared to only 44 during the same month last year.

This brings to 218 the total number of new vehicles sold from January to April, compared to 175 last year.

Douglas Brennan, CADA secretary and president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the increase is most likely a combination of events, including the fact that April 2011 was the "turning point" after the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster in Japan.

"Sales had just started to fall off. You will probably note the sales between May and August 2011 fell drastically, so CADA reports for the next few months should continue to show great improvement over that time period," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Another factor would be the high total market sales from 2004 when 1,612 new vehicles were sold, 2005 with 1,544 units, and 2006 with 999 units.

"Some of those vehicles are starting to show their age and are being replaced through attrition," added Brennan, also the general manager of Microl Corp.-Toyota.

CADA is hoping that the increased sales trend continues.

The year was off to a good start with a 43-percent sales increase in January, and a 14-percent increase in February. Although it dipped by 11 percent in March, it went up by 55 percent in April.

Of the 68 vehicles sold in April, 37 were cars, 15 were SUVs, 12 were trucks, and four were vans.

Microl Corp., the authorized dealer of Toyota and Chevrolet, topped the sales chart with 37 new vehicles sold in April, a whopping 95-percent increase from its April 2011 sales of 19. Its year-to-date sales are up 50 percent, from 72 last year to 108 this year.

Joeten Motors ranked second by selling 21 new vehicles in April, an increase of 31 percent from last year. Joeten Motors, the authorized dealer of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia, posted a 9-percent year-to-date sales decrease from 63 to 57.

Triple "J" Motors, meanwhile, sold 10 new vehicles last month, compared to nine in April 2011. Its year-to-date sales increased by 32 percent, from 40 to 53. Triple "J" Motors distributes Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda.

Toyota Yaris was the most saleable not only among cars but also among all types of vehicles in April, with 16 units sold.

Besides Toyota Yaris, the other cars sold in April were 10 Toyota Corollas, three Hyundai Elantras, two each of Hyundai Veloster and Kia Forte, and one each of Honda Accord, Hyundai Accent, Nissan 370Z, and Nissan Sentra.

Four types of SUVs shared the top sales spot, with three each of Hyundai Tucson, Kia Sportage, Nissan Rogue and Toyota RAV4. CADA also sold two Toyota 4 Runner and one Mazda CX5.

Among trucks, Toyota Tacoma sold the most with six, followed by two each of Ford E/F-Series, Ford Ranger, and Nissan Frontier.

Of four vans sold in April, three were Ford E-Vans and one Honda Odyssey.

CADA also sold 17 used or secondhand vehicles in April, bringing to 81 the total sold during the first four months of the year.

Tinian to celebrate 56th year of San Jose Fiesta

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents of the largest village on Tinian will pay tribute to their patron saint when they celebrate the 2012 San Jose Fiesta from May 4 to 6. This year marks the 56th anniversary of the event honoring San Jose the Worker.

The festivities will kick off with the coronation of the Fiesta Royal Court at 7pm on May 4 at the Kammer Beach Pavilion where booths selling food, drinks, and handicrafts will be set up for festival goers.

The next day, May 5, is "a day of fun and games," highlighted by the 65K Fiesta Bike Race, which begins at 5:30am from the Suicide Cliff.

To win the $200 first prize, Saipan bike riders will have to beat the records set by the Bikers Association of Tinian during the Taxathon Race: Fernando Cacabelot, who clocked in at 4:09:13, bagged the first prize in the male category while Rosalina Lazaro was the first female to finish at 5:23:30.

Additionally, there will be a $100 prize each for the eldest and youngest bikers to finish. Interested bikers from Saipan can join the race by taking the *Super Emerald,* which leaves Saipan from Charlie Dock on Friday at 1pm and will arrive on Tinian at 3pm. *Super Emerald* can also serve Tinian residents who want to do their shopping errands since the vessel is scheduled to sail back to the Saipan at 4pm.

On Saturday and Sunday, *Super Emerald* will leave for Tinian at 9am and return at 4pm, giving everyone plenty of time to enjoy the fiesta. Round-trip ticket is "a good deal" at $40 per person and inclusive of cargo.

A special 200-meter "Kiddie Race" sponsored by Lollipops of Saipan will also be held at 2pm starting at Taga House.

Other events scheduled for Saturday include the adult coconut husking and grinding contest at 11am, dragon boat races at noon, and greased pig chase at 3pm.

Live entertainment will also be provided at the fiesta grounds. Performing this year are the Taga Cultural Dancers, Tinian Elementary School Dancers, Compadres Band from Guam, Island Kai from Guam, Kiridos Tinian, Islands Boys from Tinian, Frank Dela Cruz, Steve Mendiola, Jr., and Jay Q. Dela Cruz.

Beach volleyball games will be also be held from morning until evening.

The annual San Jose novena will be offered on Sunday at 7:30am followed by a procession at 9am and brunch at 10am.

The San Jose Fiesta Raffle Drawing will take place in the afternoon at 3pm. Exciting prizes await the raffle winners. These include a bush cutter, 32" flat screen television, adult bicycle, chain saw, push mower, hedge trimmer, microwave, wheelbarrow, 32-quart ice chest, 5-gallon water jug, baby grand prize of $500, and the grand prize of $1,000.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Library Friends book sale

The Library Friends will be having another book sale this Saturday morning, May 5, 2012, from 8am to 12pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. ***(PR)***

Upcoming health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the following health and safety training at its training room located on Airport Road:

- First Aid: Wednesday, May 9, and Thursday, May 24, 6pm-9pm
- Adult CPR/AED: Thursday, May 10, and Wednesday, May 23, 6pm-9pm

Pre-registration is required at least 24-hours prior to training date. A $70 course-fee is required to participate in these trainings. Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information contact the local chapter at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

Memorial Day preparations

The CNMI is celebrating Memorial Day on Monday, May 28, 2012, 9am at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery. The Veterans Affairs Director and its Committee will be paying tribute to our fallen heroes and is inviting the immediate families to join the community in paying tribute to them. The immediate family is being asked to call the Veterans Affairs Office for details at 664-2650/2659 or 287-5351. ***(PR)***

First Marianas-wide history conference in the offing

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least 50 individual presentations and papers covering ancient through recent history of the Marianas archipelago will be discussed in the first Marianas History Conference on Saipan next month.

All presentations and papers are grouped into chronological sequence and will be published in the proceedings, according to NMI Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell.

The Marianas History Conference, which will be held from June 14 to 16 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, is sponsored by the NMI Humanities Council, the Guam Preservation Trust, and Guampedia, the online encyclopedia about Guam, its people, and its culture.

The conference will feature topics associated with the archipelago's history under ancient history, early colonial history or 17th to 18th centuries, late colonial history or the 19th to 20th centuries, World War II, recent or post-war history, and oral history and genealogical research.

With its theme "One Archipelago, Many Stories," the conference aims to reunify the history of the Marianas, which has become unconnected due to the islands' political division, Russell said yesterday.

"We are bringing together for the first time a large group of scholars who are specializing in Marianas history and this is going to be the first of its kind event and it's going to give people who have an interest in local history an excellent opportunity to hear some of the most recent scholarship on a variety of topics," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Russell, indigenous participation in the study of history is lacking so the conference hopes to encourage more of that. "It's a perspective that's largely been absent from the historical discourse over the years and it's something that we'd like to see how we can improve that," he said.

Russell said the first day of the Marianas History Conference will have a roundtable on the administration of public history, which seeks to gather organizations that use public funding to support historical research. These groups include the Humanities Council, Historic Preservation Office, CNMI and Guam Archives, Micronesian Research Center, and various libraries.

He said the conference will feature two keynote speakers, Fr. Fran Hezel, S.J. and Dr. Robert Underwood.

Hezel, who is now based in New York, came to Micronesia in the '60s and resided here for 40 years. He was a pioneering historian on Micronesian topics over the years and established the Micronesian Seminar in Pohnpei, which has a very large collection of resource materials relating to history and culture of the area.

Underwood is the president of the University of Guam "but he's also a historian and an academician who always has a very interesting perspective on topics."

Russell noted that they will have one featured presenter, Pale Eric Forbes, who will be discussing "Migration of Chamorros from Guam to Saipan in the late 1800s," which Russell described as "quite interesting" as not many people know about this topic.

The conference, Russell said, will also put on display poster presentations as well as history books and document collections that the Humanities Council has sponsored. The materials will also be available for sale.

"It will be a chance for everybody who wants to build up their history library, to have access to pretty much all that's available," he said.

There will be a separate art exhibit, which will feature traditional artworks from the CNMI and Guam.

Custom or optional tours of archaeological and historic sites are also being planned for conference participants on June 17, the day after the conference. While organizers have yet to establish the specifics of these tours, Russell said that there will be an underwater tour of the World War II heritage trail, which will be guided by Dr. Jennifer McKinnon, one of the conference presenters.

The tours of archaeological and historical sites will be led by local guides and experts who can tell more about these places.

The conference will begin and end with a by-invitation ceremony for organizers, presenters, VIPs, and supporters of the humanities.

Russell noted that this will be the first conference of its kind and "hopefully the first of a series of possibly annual or biannual event" which they hope to conduct alternately between the CNMI and Guam.

Now that the conference program has been finalized, Russell said they will start publicizing the event widely. "We are doing pre-registration now for people who will be coming to the conference because we have limited seating." An online registration site will also be set up.

Russell disclosed that they are already expecting "a large contingent" from Guam and, if the conference becomes an annual or biannual event, it would bring in more visitors to the Commonwealth.

"We certainly encourage anyone who has an interest in the history of the islands to attend," he said.

For more information, call the Humanities Council at (670) 235-4785. For Guam residents, call program officer Rosanna P. Barcinas of Guam Preservation Trust at (671) 472-9439 or 40.

14th
TASTE OF THE
MARIANAS
MAY 2012
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2012
Saturday, May 5, 2012
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Opening Remarks/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony/Joe T. Limes (CNMI/U.S. National Anthem)/Lion Dance
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Awadori Team
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Pacific Flower
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Uncle Ben's Music & Dance
9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Inatuas
9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Tipi Yeew Dancers
Food Concessionaires
1. Fiesta Resort & Spa
2. Hafadai Beach Hotel
3. Hyatt Regency Saipan
4. Pacific Islands Club Saipan
5. Canton Restaurant
6. Furusato Restaurant
7. Sierra Pearl Shakes
8. Capricciosa/Tony Roma's
9. D'Elegance Restaurant
10. Herman's Modern Bakery
11. Hula Girl/3's
12. Thai House Restaurant
13. Poon's Restaurant
14. Tropical Chill
15. Coral Ocean Point Resort
Beer Garden Vendors
Pacific Trading Company (PTC)
Marianas Pacific Distributors Incorporated (MARPAC)
Northern Marianas Bartender Association (NMBA)
For more information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Headquarters at telephone numbers 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or visit the website at www.mymarianas.com
Saipan Tinian Rota

2012 CNMI TOURISM MONTH
"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays

Every Friday in May is *Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Island Wear of the Northern Mariana Islands" and get a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month t-shirt; one lucky winner per week will be chosen from all who post photos.

"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Fiesta Resort & Spa is inviting all CNMI Contractor for a bidding on renovation of Roof and extension of buffet line.

Time : 3pm
Where : Ocean View Terrace
Date : May 8, 2012 (Tuesday)

For more information contact
Engineering Department
@ 234-6414 extension 1536 or 989-6408

Austerity lifted at Aging Office this month for 'Mes Man'amko'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Director Rose Mondala said yesterday that the federal Administration on Aging has already been informed about the Fitial administration's decision to exempt the Office on Aging from austerity measure this May in celebration of Older Americans Month/*Mes Man'amko/Maramal Tuufey.*

Mondala said that the Administration on Aging, which provides funding to support the programs at the Office on Aging, has been constantly following up on the Office on Aging's request to be exempted from austerity Fridays.

The Office on Aging wrote to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on April 23 "to humbly request the exemption of a few crucial staff members, myself included, from the implemented austerity measures with the intent to operate five days a week during the month of May."

The Saipan Seniors Advisory Council, through president Teresita Sorroza and vice president Maria Salinas, also wrote a separate letter with the same request last March.

Mondala, during the interview, noted that the Office on Aging on all three islands are mostly subsidized by federal funding. In fact, of the 17 staff critical for the office's operations, only four are locally funded. Even Title V employees, she added, are also federally funded.

With the lifting of austerity at the Aging Office this month, Mondala said that the *man'amko* will be able stay at the Aging Center from 7:30am to 2:30pm, Monday to Friday, allowing them to participate in the activities lined up for the monthlong celebration.

Prior to this, the island's elderly could only stay at the center up to 1:30pm before they are transported back to their residence.

Additionally, the exemption will allow the staff to prepare both breakfasts and lunches for the senior citizens. The implementation of austerity in the past only allowed the center to serve lunch.

"I'm very pleased with the exemption and I know the *man'amko* are very happy," Mondala told *Saipan Tribune*.

Although the exemption at this time applies only to May, Mondala is optimistic that the exemption will be extended to the rest of the fiscal year. "I'm really praying that this exemption will be lifted for the good of the *man'amko*."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated left, signs the proclamation declaring May as Older Americans Month/*Mes Man'amko/Maramal Tuufey* while Secretary Melvin Faisao of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, president Teresita Sorroza and vice president Maria Salinas of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council look on during the ceremony held at the Aging Center on April 26.

Healthcare corp. seeks federal grants for hospital

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is currently seeking federal monies to support some of the projects that need to be done at the Commonwealth Health Center, according to chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta.

Babauta said the corporation is applying for "at least four different small pieces of grants" with the Office of Insular Affairs under the U.S. Department of the Interior.

These grants, Babauta said, would be used for small projects such as elevator repairs and installation of solar panels at CHC.

The corporation is also pursuing "bigger piece" of grants, Babauta said, by going through the Capital Improvement Projects office with the assistance of CIP coordinator Vicky Villagomez.

He disclosed that he met with OIA field representative Jeff Schorr on April 30 to discuss the current situation of the corporation.

Schorr, in a phone interview, confirmed Monday's meeting but noted that his conversation with Babauta was only intended for "general awareness" and "staying up to date" with what's happening at the corporation. Schorr said his office wants to keep abreast of what's happening in the Commonwealth.

When asked if OIA intends to provide financial assistance to the troubled corporation, Schorr said, "That's not my decision" and that the question will have to be directed to their Washington office.

Since the corporation was created in October 2011 to take over the responsibilities of the former Department of Public Health, it has been actively working on balancing its initial seed money of $5 million and taking actions, including the implementation of a reduction-in-force on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Purse snatcher gets 2-year sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sent to prison for two years yesterday a man who snatched a female Japanese tourist's purse, injuring her after his getaway vehicle dragged her for several meters on Beach Road in western Garapan.

Gustavo Meme Ybanez, 35, pleaded guilty to robbery as part of the plea deal. The remaining charges of theft and disturbing the peace were dropped.

Govendo sentenced Ybanez to four years in prison, all suspended except for two years, without the possibility of parole and with credit for the 132 days he has already served in jail.

Once he gets out of prison, Ybanez will be placed on supervised probation for two years.

He was also directed to pay $350 in restitution to the victim, Miki Takamatsu, including her medical costs of $523.77, to be paid jointly with co-defendant Oscar J. P. Porras.

Ybanez was also required to pay a $1,000 fine and $300 in court costs and probation fees, and perform 200 hours of community service.

Govendo said that Ybanez must also complete anger management counseling and alcohol and drug assessment, treatment.

During the entire period of his probation, he will be barred from entering, loitering and passing through Garapan and golf courses that tourists frequent.

The victim, Takamatsu, and her boyfriend were strolling in Garapan on Nov. 16, 2011, when Ybanez leaned out of a car that Porras was driving and snatched Takamatsu's purse.

Takamatsu chased the car and grabbed the door. Porras sped off, dragging the tourist on the road and running over her arm.

Takamatsu sustained several bruises and was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment. Ybanez and Porras fled the scene and split the $350 they took from the purse.

Last April 18, Porras pleaded guilty to a theft in a separate case and accessory after the fact to robbery, receiving stolen property, and assault and battery in the snatching case. Porras, 33, was sentenced to two years in jail, with no possibility of parole.

Introducing the
United MileagePlus® Credit Card
from First Hawaiian Bank

Get more from your everyday purchases. Earn 1 award mile for every $1 you spend on purchases and be on your way to that dream destination faster*. From more choices to more opportunities for convenience, you'll enjoy more flights to more destinations.

Plus, apply by June 30, 2012 and receive up to 30,000 MileagePlus bonus miles:**

- 5,000 bonus miles upon account opening
- 15,000 bonus miles with first purchase by September 30, 2012
- 10,000 bonus miles after spending $1,000 within the first 4 months of account opening
- $0 intro annual fee for the first year, then $60†

Apply today. Visit any branch or fhb.com or call 1-800-342-2778.

MileagePlus UNITED

First Hawaiian Bank

Service. Solutions. Security.
Yes we care.

fhb.com Member FDIC

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

*Miles accrued and awards issued are subject to the rules of the MileagePlus® program. United, its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products and services of other participating companies or partners. Please allow six to eight weeks after completed qualifying activity for bonus miles to be posted to your MileagePlus account. Bonus miles and miles earned through non-flight activity do not count towards Premier® status. Bonus mile offers are subject to change without notice. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the passenger. United may change MileagePlus program rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus program at any time and without notice. MileagePlus participation may not be permitted in some countries. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks.

**Subject to credit approval. United MileagePlus cardholders will receive one mile for every $1.00 of net purchases and one additional mile per $1 of qualifying ticket purchases, made directly from United. Apply by June 30, 2012 and if you are approved, receive 5,000 MileagePlus bonus miles upon account opening, 15,000 MileagePlus bonus miles with your first purchase by September 30, 2012 and an additional 10,000 MileagePlus bonus miles when you spend $1,000 within the first 4 months of account opening. Please allow six to eight weeks after completed qualifying activity for bonus miles to be posted to your MileagePlus account.

†The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases is a variable rate of 16.24% APR as of 04/12/12. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than $1.00. The ATM Cash Advance Fee is 3% of the transaction amount ($3 min/$50 max) and the Over-the-Counter Cash Advance Fee and Convenience Check Fees are 3% of the transaction amount ($5min/$50 max). The Foreign Transaction Fee is 2.5% of each transaction in U.S. dollars. $0 intro annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is $60. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply.

A 12-year journey home

Petty Officer 2nd Class Kensley Raigeluw and his father Lorenzo reunite. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Tobosa.

By LT. STEPHANIE YOUNG
U.S. COAST GUARD HAWAII

Located 430 miles south of Guam in the Western Pacific Ocean is a small, coral atoll made up of 22 islands called Woleai. Part of the Federated States of Micronesia, the atoll's inhabitants are isolated from the rest of the world with their only means of communication being a VHF radio.

Woleai is a unique place in the world; everything on the atoll is communal and there are different clans, each with their own chief. Above each clan chief are three paramount chiefs that rule the island. While Woleai Atoll is a place many of us have never heard of, or will likely never visit in our lives, there are approximately 1,000 people who proudly call the atoll "home." Petty Officer 2nd Class Kensley Raigeluw is one of these people.

Raigeluw is currently stationed aboard Coast Guard cutter *Jarvis*, a high-endurance cutter that routinely deploys to the Pacific—from Russia to Panama and everywhere in between. While the crew travels great distances, they were recently able to take a brief departure from their primary mission to reunite Raigeluw with his native soil. It was the first time Raigeluw visited home in 12 years.

It's hard to imagine a young boy growing up in such an isolated environment finding his way into the U.S. Coast Guard. But Raigeluw's journey started with a chance encounter when he was just 8 and Coast Guard cutter *Basswood* came to the atoll.

"I still remember watching their small boat driving up to our beach and my whole community having a party for their crew," recalled Raigeluw. "They took me on a tour of their ship and all I can remember is thinking that it would be so cool to be one of them, sailing around the world."

While more than a decade has passed since he has returned, he has strong memories growing up in Woleai, where people live off the land and ocean.

"One of my fondest memories growing up was sitting on the beach in the evening with my father and uncles and learning celestial navigation," said Raigeluw. "To this day the people of my island learn to navigate by the stars."

Raigeluw left Woleai in 2000 to attend college in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, followed by the University of Hawaii in Hilo, Hawaii. He earned this opportunity by being one of two people from his island who achieved high enough scores on a college aptitude exam.

Years later, in September 2005, Raigeluw was looking into joining the Army, but happened to see a Coast Guard banner online. It immediately reminded him of the *Basswood* and he made the decision to join the Coast Guard.

After college he enlisted in the Coast Guard, attending boot camp in Cape May, New Jersey—9,000 miles away from his native atoll. After graduating from boot camp, he was assigned to Station Rio Vista, Calif., and now *Jarvis*, bringing him back full circle to the place where he was born.

Anchored offshore, *Jarvis'* crew launched both their small boats loaded with donations of canned foods, medical supplies, and gifts. When asked what emotions he felt being home after 12 years, with his crew besides him, Raigeluw could only recall one—happiness.

"The day when my ship sailed to Woleai was one of the best days of my life. It is hard to explain how overwhelmed I was with happiness," said Raigeluw.

"When we arrived on shore I realized most of my uncles were staring at us from beyond the beach and had no clue who I was, especially because I was in my uniform," recalled Raigeluw. "I had to walk closer to them before they recognized me."

When word got out one of their own was there, the whole village came out to greet him.

"The feeling of seeing Petty Officer Raigeluw reunited with his family after so many years cannot be put into words," said Capt. Webster Balding, commanding officer of *Jarvis*. "It's one of those things in life that just really makes you appreciate your family, our maritime service and our nation. I believe my heart grew today, definitely a once in a lifetime experience."

The visit lasted just hours as the cutter had to get back to the mission at hand. But before departing, Raigeluw presented a gift to his family—a photo album containing pictures of his wife and two sons, whom his parents have never met.

While the visit was short lived, Raigeluw will hold on to the memory of his homecoming forever, adding the experience to his already unique perspectives from growing up on Woleai Atoll.

While Raigeluw may have come from a far away place, who he is and what he stands for is something we can all identify with.

"My family has been seafarers for generations; they have sailed all throughout Oceania. Going to sea is in my nature and fits well with my service in the Coast Guard," said Raigeluw. "In my upbringing, my parents instilled the importance of service to others. I take to heart the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty."

First Friday Films features *Homo Toxicus*

First Friday Films will be featuring Homo Toxicus on May 4, 2012, 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Filmmaker Carole Poliquin investigates the remarkable amount of toxic chemicals that exist in our bodies with this documentary that will have viewers taking great caution while deciding what to put in their bodies.

Every day, tons of chemicals are released into the environment, without ever knowing how toxic they are in the long term to living organisms. Moreover, the majority of the 100,000 molecules developed since World War II that are used in daily products have never been tested. Some of them found their way into our bodies and into fetuses. Up to 247 toxic substances have been found in newborns. We are today bequeathing our toxic load to our children along with our DNA!

First Friday Films is a monthly film series in partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups and organizations such as the NMI Council For Humanities, which is sponsoring this film.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public.

Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com . Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. ***(DEQ)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 3, 1999

Teno seeks probe of ex-officials for misuse of funds
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has ordered the Office of the Attorney General to take immediate action on the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior seeking the prosecution of former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and others for alleged abuse of public funds. The governor said he wrote to acting Atty. General Maya Kara Friday instructing her to review an audit report on the past administration's handling of government money, bbut refused to give details of the IG audit report. "There are a lot of recommendations," Tenorio said. "One of the recommendations is to refer some of these to the attorney general for investigation."

Six firms offer dredging in exchange for longer lease
Six companies currently leasing the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Seaplane Ramps and adjacent properties have offered to spend for the additional dredging work in these areas in exchange for longer term leases as well as credit for future payments. In a letter sent to board chairman Roman S. Palacios, the six companies that are also operating boats for tourists requested the ports authority to consider dredging the existing channels because the shallow waters may damage the vessels especially during low tide. The companies include Pacific Subsea, BSEA Inc. Connie B. Charters, Island Fresh, Saipan Sunset Cruise and JM& Associates.

May 3, 2000

Reyes cautions against suing MTC
Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes yesterday slammed an attempt to renew litigation against the Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. to force the CNMI's lone domestic phone service provider to stop charging toll fees for inter-island calls. "The timing is very bad. It almost appears hostile against the company," he told in an interview from Rota where he joined other local leaders in inaugurating the first ever cellular service in the island municipality. GTE Pacifica, which owns MTC, recently built its new cellular site on Rota to provide residents with the mobile phone service, which has been in operations on Saipan and Tinian for several years now.

EPA to begin water sampling
The Division of Environmental Quality has informed the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association about the plan of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take one water sample from each private well on the island. DEQ Director Ignacio Cabrera said the sample will be analyzed by a DEQ-certified drinking water laboratory for volatile organic chemicals. Samples will not be analyzed for any of the other contaminants that must be monitored by the water systems, DEQ said. A team from U.S. EPA with the private contractors will carry out the tests on water wells with the assistance of DEQ staff. Private well owners can count the test to be conducted by EPA as one of the quarterly samples required by the regulation.

May 3, 2001

CDA, BoG sue ex-CPA chair
A local corporation and a Rota-based couple are facing mortgage foreclosure raps for alleged failure to fulfill their part in a debt agreement with the Bank of Guam and the Commonwealth Development Authority. Plaintiffs BoG and CDA are seeking to recover over $2 million from V's Corporation, Rota residents Victor and Villia Hocog and several defendants yet to be identified on allegations that parties failed to cure their deficit long overdue since January 25, 2001. The lending entities, in a mortgage foreclosure complaint filed at the Superior Court, claimed that the defendants on June 10, 1999 executed and delivered a promissory note to BoG in the principal sum of $1.7 million.

Conditions set for MVA's use of aviation fuel tax
The Senate is willing to earmark earnings from the aviation fuel tax to fund promotional activities of the Marianas Visitors Authority provided separate tourism offices will be established each for Tinian and Rota. Senators are anticipated to meet with their counterparts in the House of Representatives to discuss a possible compromise agreement, seen to pacify conflicting views of both houses of the Legislature on how to revive CNMI's tourism industry. While both chambers are one in working out a way to alleviate the travel sector's condition, they differ in opinion on how to effectively achieve their goals faster.

TOYOTA · POWER 99 SAIPAN · COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION · IT&E Life in Motion · KKMP 1440AM 92.3FM · NMC CREES · DICKERSON QUINN INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS · IP&E · Marianas Variety · QTC · SALBA HE' BRAND www.salbahebrand.com · Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Charter Day This Friday

marianas idol I dance competition
battle of the bands I hilux truck show

Morning Activities (begins 8:00 am)

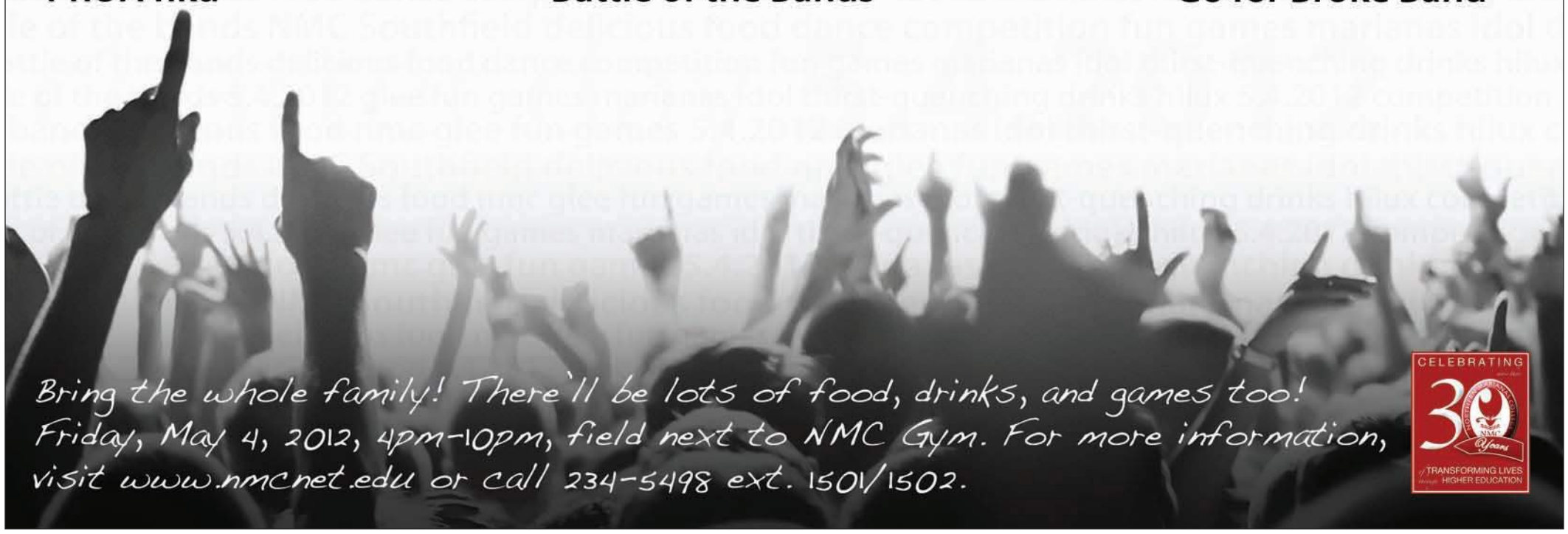
CREES Citrus Workshop
CREES Open House
Volleyball: Employees vs. Students
Basketball: Employees vs. Students
CREES Recipe/Cooking Competition

Opening Ceremonies (begins 4:00 pm)

National Anthem by the Proa Music Society
Welcoming Remarks - Dr. Sharon Hart, NMC President
Proclamation Signing Governor / Lt. Governor
Presentation of House Resolution
Employee Recognition Awards
Donor of the Year Award
Farmer of the Year Award
Presentation of Sports Awards

Evening Program (5:00 pm to 10:00 pm)

Maika'i
Black Sands
Big Ken Camacho
Hilux Competition
PROA'nkd
Micronesian Club Ataktak Crew
Carolinian Maas
Clash of the Crews
Proa Music Society Revue
Battle of the Bands
Marianas Idol
SSHS Singing Group
Umang Glee Club
Afetnas Regime
Go for Broke Band


Bring the whole family! There`ll be lots of food, drinks, and games too!
Friday, May 4, 2012, 4pm-10pm, field next to NMC Gym. For more information,
visit www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 1501/1502.
CELEBRATING
30
NMC
Years
TRANSFORMING LIVES
HIGHER EDUCATION

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 104

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Is illegal immigration passe?

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Tuesday, May 1:*

The number of immigrants coming illegally to the United States has been declining for several years. Demographers have repeatedly said as much, and now a report by the Pew Hispanic Center confirms it—illegal migration from Mexico is virtually at a standstill. Last year, about 6.1 million Mexicans were illegally in the country, down from a high of 7 million in 2007.

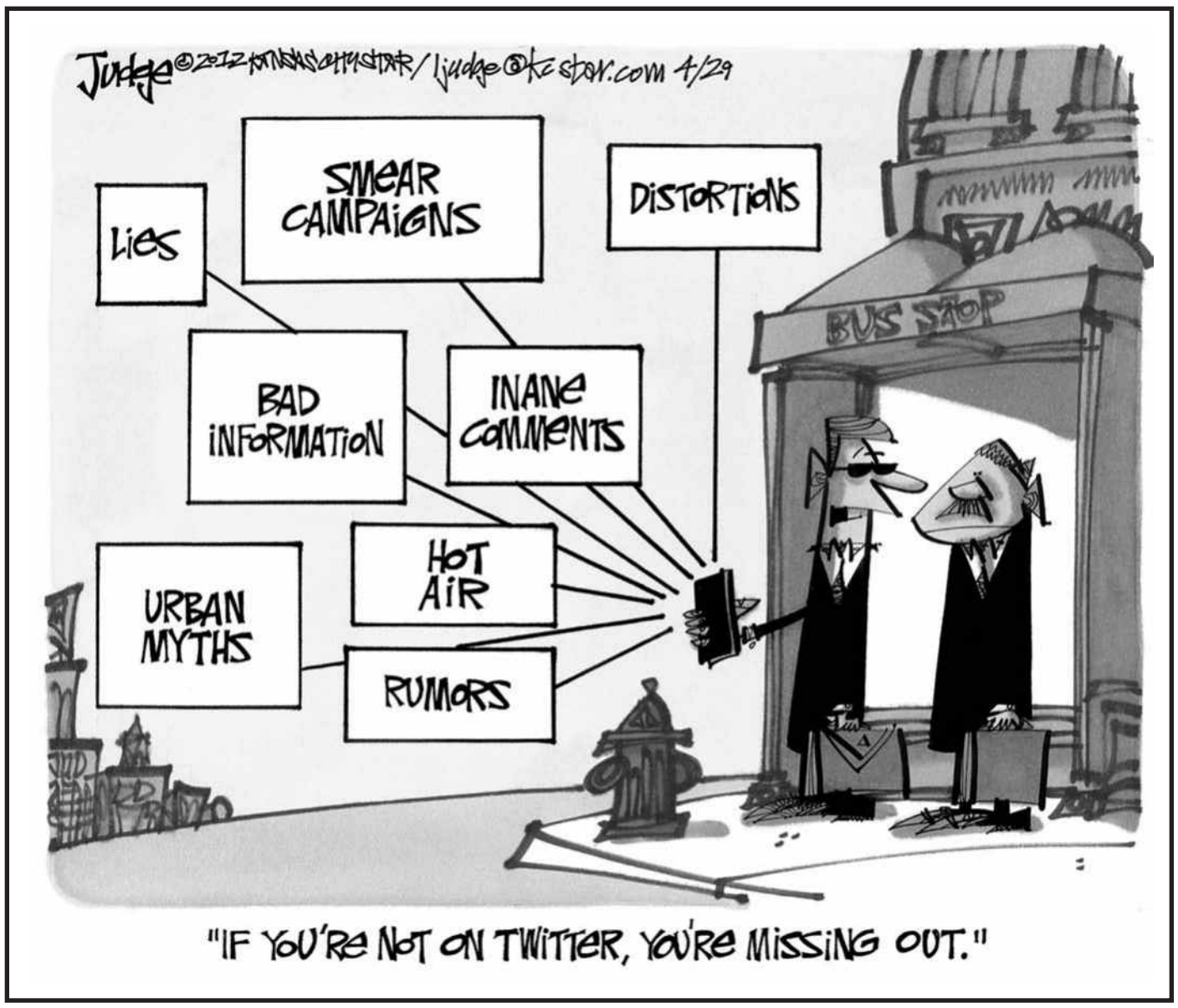
What accounts for the change after decades of steady increases? A declining birth rate and solid economic growth in Mexico have led fewer people to leave home. On this side of the border, a weak economy has made the U.S. less appealing for job seekers; and tougher border security has made the treacherous journey too expensive and dangerous for most, according to the report.

You might think that this would take some of the pressure off, and that the Republicans and immigration hawks who have spent recent years demanding tougher border security might begin to turn their attention elsewhere. You might think they'd recognize, as many demographers now do, that illegal immigration is going to stay down for a while and that continuing efforts to militarize the border will yield diminishing returns. The reality is that the border is more secure and less porous than it has been in decades.

The more pressing question now is what to do with the 11 million illegal immigrants from Mexico and elsewhere who are already here. Some Republicans want to redouble efforts to deport them; Mitt Romney has said he hopes they will "self-deport." But such fantasies of a mass exodus are as unrealistic as the demand for a vacuum-sealed border. The Obama administration is already detaining and deporting a record number of immigrants—nearly 400,000 annually. Besides, a real exodus would leave some sectors of the domestic economy struggling. Right now, more than half of all farmworkers in the U.S. are here illegally. Deporting them won't push Americans into the fields. Just ask farmers in Alabama and other states that have enacted draconian measures who have found their crops rotting in the field because of labor shortages.

Fixing immigration requires more than an enforcement-only strategy. Lawmakers must undertake a comprehensive approach that includes a path to legalization for those who are here, an agricultural worker program to help growers and farmhands, and strict workplace enforcement to discourage people from coming illegally in the future.

©2012 the Los Angeles Times



The worst way to judge a charity

By JACK SHAKELY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Donating to charity is a worthy action. But which charity? Would it surprise you to know that the criterion that is most often used to decide that question is also the most unreliable? Would it surprise you more to know that many charities are aware of how flawed the criterion is and play it like a violin?

A few months ago a friend of mine who runs an international relief agency phoned me complaining about another charity.

"Do you know what they're doing?" he fumed. "They're buying medicine in Canada for 10 cents a pill and booking the American retail cost of the medicine as an in-kind contribution. Do you know the retail value? Seven bucks a pill. They're padding their in-kind contributions by millions of dollars."

I hung up a little perplexed at first. It wasn't like the organization was buying pills for a dime and selling them for $7; it was were giving them away. Outside of inflating their donations for bragging rights, I couldn't see the harm. Then it hit me.

I went to the organization's website and there it was, one click off the home page: Nearly 90 percent of its donations in 2011 went directly to the group's programs. Its administrative costs? Just 5 percent of the budget. But if the agency was inflating in-kind contributions, it could hike the value of its donations to make its administrative costs seem smaller.

Why would it do that? Because low administrative costs are the holy grail in judging how well a nonprofit does its work. It's not the only thing responsible raters look at, but it's the shorthand. The best of the best in one Top 20 list last year, for example, was a charity that spent nothing, nada—0.0 percent, as the list put it—on administration. Too bad that as a measure of value, low administrative costs are unscientific and meaningless.

Don't get me wrong. Low administrative costs could indicate prudence and sound judgment at a charity, but they could just as easily indicate inadequate staffing, insufficient salaries or, shall we say, fudging. Moreover, administrative costs aren't the primary measurement of for-profit excellence. Are McDonald's admin costs lower than Wendy's? Apple's lower than Microsoft's?

Why then do we continue to buy such a boneheaded yardstick to measure nonprofit organizations?

Daniel Kahneman, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, in his brilliant new book "Thinking Fast and Slow," calls it substitution. Each of us, Kahneman writes, has in effect two systems of thinking—an intuitive system that we rely on for quick answers, hunches and gut reactions, and a rational, statistics-driven intellectual system. As superior as the rational system may seem, it has a flaw: It's lazy, and it will defer to the intuitive system whenever it can, especially if the intuitive answer comes cloaked in seemingly scientific justification.

On top of that, our intuitive thinking system also hates hard work, Kahneman says, and if figuring out the answer to a problem is too difficult or complex, we often simply substitute a different, easier answer for the hard work, and we may not even be aware we are doing so.

It is really hard to judge the merits of most nonprofit organizations programmatically. Are people smarter, healthier, do they drive better, get fewer divorces or smoke less as a direct result of a nonprofit organization's intervention? These are the questions we should be asking, and there are many who are trying to do just that every day, internally in nonprofits and in universities and research centers across the country.

But our intuitive thinking system wants an answer now, and because we are intuitively inclined to believe that the nonprofit sector is filled with soft, amateurish executives, we latch on to the pseudo-science of administrative costs as a measure of excellence. It's hogwash; there is absolutely no way of telling that an organization with 5 percent administrative costs is superior to one with 20 percent costs based on that criterion alone. In fact, the exact opposite may be true.

Using administrative overhead as a mark of excellence will be a hard habit to break, however. According to the National Center for Charitable Statistics: "For better or worse, the percentage of total expenses going to program costs is the most common measure of nonprofit organizational efficiency. Focus group research has found that donors expect worthy organizations to have low fundraising and administrative costs. Consequently, nonprofits frequently tout their low overhead ratios in their mailings to the donors." Or on their websites.

There are a lot of great reasons to donate to a charity—competent staff, involved and committed board and volunteers, a well-defined and engaged constituency, and a track record of past success. When you find the right nonprofit, honor it with your time and treasure. But let's bury the substitute easy answer of administrative costs. That's no way to choose a charity.

Jack Shakely is president emeritus of the California Community Foundation. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Legacy of the 2008 rolling power blackouts on Saipan

By ABE UTU MALAE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Abe Utu Malae is executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Power generation failures gave rise to the Saipan power crisis of 2008. (See, for instance, http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/121201/pinoyabroad/give-us-power-filipinos-experience-dark-ages-in-us-territory-of-saipan). Those failures were a direct result of a chronic lack of maintenance and faulty diagnoses and repairs of generator sets. That unfortunate situation was in turn caused by factors that should not be allowed to ever take hold again.

Saipan's firm capacity today is 67MW versus a year-to-date peak load of 33.5MW. This firm capacity is expected to increase to 75MW when new radiator sets are installed on four more engines at Power Plant 1.

Options to address the power crisis in 2008

In the first three months of 2007, CUC contracted an overseas consulting firm to draw up plans to rehabilitate engines at Power Plant 1. This plan called for the installation of rental generating sets—before any of the larger medium speed diesels at Power Plant 1 were to be removed from service for major overhauls.

Unfortunately, the power crisis of 2008 occurred before the rehabilitation began.

At the time, there were few good options and time was of the essence. CUC concluded in 2008 that the best option was to rent 15MW of generating sets from overseas. CUC's primary concern then was the availability and reliability of power to customers; cost was next in importance. Seventeen generating sets guaranteeing 15MW of continuous power was rented for one year and *not two* as asserted by Mr. F. Prosser in his letter to one of the local newspapers, April 27, 2012

Least expensive option

Unbeknownst to many, the rehabilitation of Power Plant 2 actually began in 2006 and was still ongoing during the power crisis of 2008. Back in March 2006, CUC contracted a private local company to rehabilitate the six EMD engines at Power Plant 2, at a price of $885,000. By 2009, total Power Plant 2 rehabilitation cost increased to $1 million, but output remained below 8.0MW—far short of the 15MW needed during the 2008 power crisis. Thus, utilizing Power Plant 2 to provide 15MW of power during the power crisis was untenable.

The fuel consumption efficiency of the two-stroke EMDs at Power Plant 2 is inherently poor—averaging between 11.0 to 12.0 kWh per gallon, versus 14.1 kWh per gallon for the rental generating sets.

In 12 months of operation, the rentals produced a total of 117,580 MWh while consuming 8,339,007 gallons of diesel fuel. If Power Plant 2 were able to generate the required 15MW of power and produce the 117,580 MWh at its usual fuel efficiency of 11.5kWh per gallon, Power Plant 2 would have consumed 10,224,348 gallons of diesel. This amounts to 1,885,341 gallons more fuel than that consumed by the rentals.

The average cost of fuel during the 12 months of rental generation was $2.1387 per gallon. The additional cost of fuel to CUC, (if Power Plant 2 were used instead of rental units), would have amounted to *$4.03 million*. That amount would have been passed on directly to customers as part of the fuel cost surcharge or LEAC.

A contract with an off-island company to rehabilitate engines at Power Plant 1 was terminated due to non-performance. Cooling, vibration, and turbocharger problems associated with engines at CUC were eventually brought under control. Engine 8 has been fully rehabilitated and this engine alone produces more power than all of Power Plant 2 and with much higher efficiency, too.

Moving forward

Reliability of power is not as high as it should be because of the numerous faults experienced on the distribution system. During the economic depression extant, *affordability* is the key consideration and the public is already painfully aware of the high price of utilities. As high as the prices are, they would be even worse if not for the contributions from the federal government in rebuilding the infrastructure and buying equipment. In fiscal year 2011 alone, CUC received $14 million for water, wastewater and power. There is no way the utility could ask for such a large amount of money from the ratepayers of the Commonwealth.

Renewable energy development began in earnest March 2011, when Public Law 17-34 came into existence, allowing CUC to issue request- for- proposals for RE. Currently, there are four renewable energy contracts undergoing extensive legal review. The goal is to have 15 to 20 MW capacity of renewable energy by mid-2013 and for the fuel component of the rates, or the LEAC, to be reduced by at least 15 percent.

Letters to the Editor

A CNMI gold mine but…

The CNMI has been given a second chance to develop the pozzolan industry but I can only wonder, hope, and pray it will really happen. I said in a letter long ago that "we could be sitting on a gold mine but no one will do the work" in regards to the first offer to mine pozzolan. The first offer was put down for cultural preservation issues that were indeed legitimate but not justifiable to deny the entire CNMI an opportunity to birth a new industry. *The* needs *of the majority will always outweigh the* wants *of a few*.

Given the fact that the pozzolan is considered the best quality, it stands to reason that we are sitting on a gold mine that only needs to be worked. But the question still remains: Will the proposed mining be allowed? I know there are still legitimate concerns for cultural preservation and the waste that will be deposited *but* these factors should not stop every legitimate attempt to start the mining process. I did my homework and pozzolan is not even in the dictionary or encyclopedia. Pozzolan is also found in only two places in the world and we are one of them. These facts tell me that we are sitting on a futuristic material for construction and that we should have never ran the first investor away. Look at us now!

As for the cultural concerns, the mining operation will actually contribute to efforts to repopulate the Northern Islands. Infrastructure, including a dock with a support system, will be needed for the mining operation that can also assist the locals who want to live or frequent the Northern Islands. The mining operation, from what I can tell, is only going to take up a small area of the island and there will be virtually no damage to the environment with improvements for living on Pagan.

The only legitimate concern for adverse effects is the waste that will be deposited. There must be adequate safeguards in place to assure that the waste will not be hazardous in any way. There is also the possibility of using the waste for landfill where it might be needed and other options may even be available—one person's waste is another person's treasure! There is a real possibility that we can develop a "product" that can be produced in the CNMI using pozzolan but someone must do the work. It may be as simple as bagging the pozzolan and selling it but someone in the CNMI must do the scientific research on possible pozzolan uses. CNMI observers and laborers will also be needed to do the work to make sure the waste will not have an adverse effect on the island and ocean environment—we are talking jobs for locals.

The mining of pozzolan should really be a no-brainer, given the lessons we should have learned from the CNMI's mistake to run the first pozzolan investor away. Are we really going to just let the pozzolan sit there and do nothing while we continue to starve to death? You can't save everything for the future and if we don't take care of the present there may not be a future! Most adults are well aware of how important second chances are and the need to not make the same mistake again. The CNMI has a second chance but that age old question that I have raised so many time still remains to be answered: Who will do the work to make it happen? This belief that investors are going to somehow come and save us is misguided, as investors are not looking to save us but to make a buck so we (the CNMI) had better get on top of our game and find out what we can do with pozzolan in addition to selling it to the present investor. We have tons and tons of it to sell so someone needs to get busy quick, fast and in a hurry! The CNMI should allow the mining but at the same time we need to do our homework on pozzolan because it could literally be a genuine gold mine!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Wake up, DPS!

I am seriously trying to understand DPS and the rookie officers. I worked for DPS for a long enough time and they still have the same habits and have passed it down to the rookies.

From my understanding, a traffic report is done in 3-5 working days but, seriously, why 10 and then no one still answers the phone at Traffic and Patrol. It just makes it worse.

I am no dummy when it comes to DPS. I have worked there long enough to know the protocol. let alone how they conduct themselves there. Why in the name of God are they continuing the bad habits that causes the public to continue to view them as if they are still incompetent to do a job? If anything, they need to be retrained. Just because they put a badge and gun on them does not mean they fully understand what it is to be an officer.

DPS need to seriously look at the officers and retrain them in what it is to be an officer and what their protocol stands for because I do recall we didn't go to the extreme and hold a report far longer than three days and they need to see that. It is apparent these officers are not aware of what a sworn officer is supposed to do.

Why does it take Officer Cepeda well over three working days to do a traffic accident report? In fact it is 12 days later yet the report is still not done when it should have been done. That shows the lack of attention these officers have when doing a report because had this been one of their relative, I'd bet it would be done. This is because they do not understand their own protocol. They figure they get paid to drive around and take reports but forget to do the report.

Really, DPS officers need to understand one thing: Just because they give you a badge and gun does not make you an officer. Seriously, come here to the States and see what it is to be a real police officer. They will laugh them out their uniforms. Wake up DPS and do your job when it comes to taking a report. I tried not to be ugly about this but when I call no one answers the phone and when they are informed by another officer, they still do not have it done. Wake the hell up!

Tia McFarland
Vallejo, California

False rumors

The rumor is widespread that once the Retirement Fund's bankruptcy goes into effect, benefits will be cut 58 percent. This is not true. A report prepared by Retirement Fund staff for a public hearing several months ago showed four graphs of the lifespan of the Fund, which varied depending on how big a cut was made to the benefits. As was to be expected, the graphs showed that the bigger the cut in benefits, the longer the Fund would survive. That's where the 58 percent cut comes from. It has not been chosen, approved, or recommended by anyone.

What's more, those graphs did not change any of the benefits, and we all know there are serious problems with who gets what and how much in terms of various forms of pension. Under Chapter 11 bankruptcy, those benefits may be modified, even though ordinarily protected under the Constitution and various other laws.

Thus, it would be possible—and, I would suggest, highly likely—to set a ceiling on the amount of pension benefit any retiree would receive, that "extra" bonus provisions be deleted, that persons deemed to be unreasonably receiving pension benefits be dropped from the list.

It is not yet known how much of a difference that would make in the graph curves showing the lifeline of the Fund (such alternatives were not even considered at the time) but clearly, it would make a difference, and it could be enough to change that 58 percent to something far more bearable.

In addition, those graphs assumed that the CNMI economy would stay as bad as it is now over the life of the graph. It may be grasping at straws but, with the military buildup in Guam, increased military use of Tinian, and with a new governor two years from now (if not sooner), I believe there is no way for the economy to go but up, and that too will serve to lower that 58 percent to something more bearable.

We should all be working toward keeping the Retirement Fund alive so that it will be there for all of us when we retire. If we kill it, no one will gain anything.

That's not to say the defined contribution plan should remain unchanged. It too needs help and restructuring. Who knows, maybe under the bankruptcy powers, that too could be improved!

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

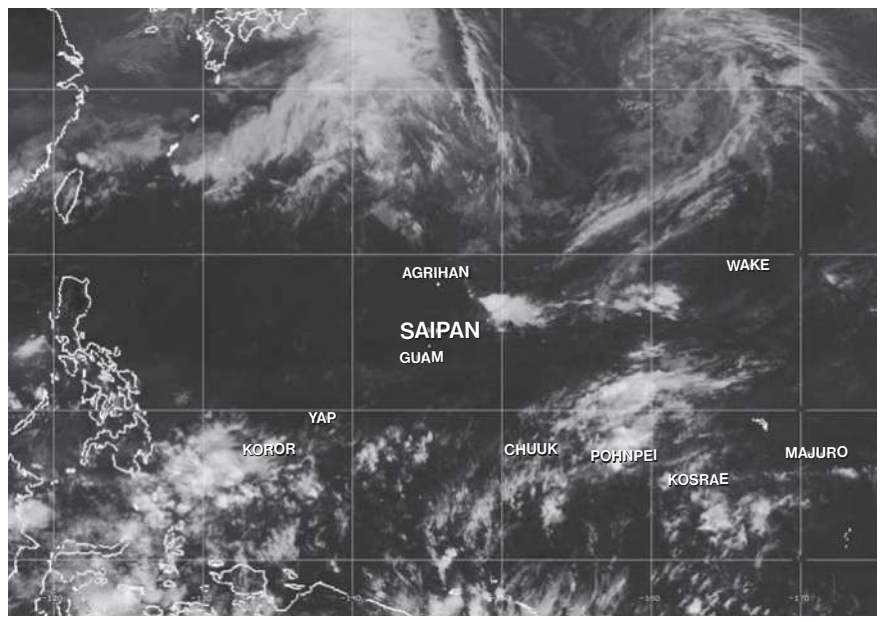
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲65	▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲82	▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲81	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼71
London	Rain	▲50	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼83
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲80	▼73
New York	Showers	▲59	▼57
Osaka	Rain	▲68	▼59
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼46
Pusan	Showers	▲68	▼57
Rome	Sunny	▲72	▼51
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼54
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲72	▼64
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲83	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An old shear line extends eastward from 15N148E to 15N162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between Saipan and Wake Island along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from the southern Philippines through 5N130E to end southeast of Koror at 4N136E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present near Koror or west of a line from 10N130E to 7N137E to 3N137E. Convergent trade winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei and Kosrae states within 200 miles of a line from 13N161E to 9N156E to 2N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:38 PM	3:02 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	3:48 AM
Saturday	5:41 PM	4:38 AM
Sunday	6:47 PM	5:32 AM
Monday	7:52 PM	6:30 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

UK lawmakers: Rupert Murdoch unfit to lead company

LONDON (AP)—A committee of British lawmakers called Rupert Murdoch unfit to run his global media empire—a finding that reflects just how deeply the phone hacking scandal born of his defunct News of the World has shaken the relationship between the press and politics.

The divisive ruling Tuesday against Murdoch, his son James and three of their executives also exposed the waning influence of the media tycoon, and could jeopardize his control of a major broadcaster.

Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport committee—a panel that scrutinizes the standards of Britain's press and sports authorities—began an inquiry amid disclosures about widespread tabloid hacking of voice mail, concerns over bribes paid to police for scoops, and politicians who may have overstepped the bounds by cozying up to key players in the Murdoch empire.

Tarring the credentials of both the 81-year-old media mogul and James Murdoch, a former executive chairman of News Corp.'s U.K. newspaper division, the committee's scathing words on the Murdochs could affect their controlling stake in British Sky Broadcasting.

Britain's broadcasting regulator Ofcom acknowledged it was studying details of the report, which unanimously agreed that three key News International executives had misled Parliament—a verdict that can see offenders hauled before legislators to make a personal apology.

"We conclude, therefore, that Rupert Murdoch is not a fit person to exercise the stewardship of a major international company," the report said.

In a message to News International staff, Murdoch said he found the findings "difficult to read" and that he deeply regretted what took place.

"We certainly should have acted more quickly and aggressively to uncover wrongdoing," he wrote. "There is no easy way around this, but I am proud to say that we have been working hard to put things right."

Among the 11-member committee, four lawmakers from Britain's Conservative Party—which Murdoch's flagship The Sun tabloid now supports—refused to endorse the report. It was supported by one Liberal Democrat and five members of the opposition Labour Party, which Murdoch ditched before Britain's 2010 national election.

The chairman, a Conservative, did not vote in line with parliamentary convention.

Philip Davies said the conclusion on Murdoch supported by Labour members was "not only over the top, but ludicrous."

The fallout has jolted Prime Minister David Cameron, who lost his top media adviser over the scandal and is fighting demands to sack a Cabinet minister over the links his office had to some of Murdoch's key staff.

Cameron may also face new embarrassment if, as expected, Britain's media ethics inquiry orders him and ex-News of The World editor Rebekah Brooks to disclose scores of text messages they exchanged while she ran the tabloid.

Murdoch closed down the 168-year-old News of the World in July amid a public outcry over intercepted voice mail of celebrities and the murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler.

Ofcom, which decides if broadcasters in the U.K. are "fit and proper" to hold a license, launched an inquiry last year into BkyB following revelations about phone hacking.

Murdoch's empire

News Corporation

A British parliamentary panel has declared media mogul Rupert Murdoch unfit to run his company due to his nonchalant attitude toward the phone hacking practices at some of his publications.

CEO, chairman Rupert Murdoch

Oxford-educated Murdoch, 81, has a net worth of more than $8 billion

His company at a glance

News Corp. is one of the world's largest media conglomerates, second only to Walt Disney

Revenue	$33.4 billion
Net income	$2.7 billion
Profit margin	37%
Employees	51,000
Market cap (as of April 30)	$49.4 billion

Major segments

2011 revenue, in billions

Publishing	$8.8

• More than 150 newspapers, including The Times (London), The Wall Street Journal, The Australian; HarperCollins book publishers

Cable programming	8.0

• Fox News Channel, Fox Sports Net, FX, Fox College Sports, National Geographic channel

Filmed entertainment	6.9

• 20th Century Fox, 20th Century Fox TV, 20th Century Fox Espanol, Fox Searchlight

Television	4.8

• Fox Broadcasting Co., 27 TV stations, various TV operations throughout the world

Satellite TV	3.8

• BSkyB (39 percent), FOXTEL, Sky Deutschland, Sky Italia

Source: News Corp., Forbes, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

© 2012 MCT

AP

This Sunday July 10, 2011 file photo shows Chairman of News Corporation Rupert Murdoch, right, and his son James Murdoch, chief executive of News Corporation Europe and Asia arrive at his residence in central London.

Bank of Hawaii ranked top performing 'large' US bank

HONOLULU, HAWAII—For the second consecutive year, *ABA Banking Journal*, a monthly national trade publication, has named Bank of Hawaii the nation's top performing bank among the largest public and private banks and thrifts (those with assets of $10 billion or more). The rankings were published in the magazine's April 2012 edition, and are available online at http://www.ababj.com/briefing/banking-s-top-performers-2012-part-i-2838.html. Bank of Hawaii has been annually ranked among the top 10 performing banks in the country since 2007.

Peter Ho, Bank of Hawaii chairman, president and CEO, said, "This ranking is a positive affirmation of our community, our clients, and especially our hardworking employees. We're pleased to be recognized for the second year in a row as the publication's top performing large bank."

ABA partnered with Capital Performance Group to determine the rankings based on return on average total equity obtained from end-of-year Securities and Exchange Commission filings as of Dec. 31, 2011, provided by Highline Financial, LLC. The evaluation included banks and thrift institutions ranging in asset size from $10.6 billion (Cathay General Bancorp of Los Angeles) to $2.3 trillion (JPMorgan Chase). Bank of Hawaii had assets of $13.8 billion.

Bank of Hawaii has also been rated by *Forbes Magazine* as one of the country's top performers for the past three years, naming it No. 1 for 2009 and 2010, and No. 2 for 2011. ***(BoH)***

US factory growth shows economy more resilient

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. manufacturing grew last month at the fastest pace in 10 months, suggesting that the economy is healthier than recent data had indicated.

New orders, production and a measure of hiring all rose. The April survey from the Institute for Supply Management was a hopeful sign ahead of Friday's monthly jobs report and helped the Dow Jones industrial average end the day at its highest level in more than four years.

The trade group of purchasing managers said Tuesday that its index of manufacturing activity reached 54.8 in April, the highest level since June. Readings above 50 indicate expansion.

The sharp increase surprised analysts, who had predicted a decline after several regional reports showed manufacturing growth weakened last month. The gain led investors to shift money out of bonds and into stocks. The Dow Jones industrial added 66 points to 13,279, its best close since Dec. 28, 2007. Broader indexes also surged.

The ISM manufacturing index is closely watched in part because it's the first major economic report for each month. April's big gain followed a series of weaker reports in recent weeks that showed hiring slowed, applications for unemployment benefits rose and factory output dropped.

"This survey will ease concerns that the softer tone of the incoming news in recent months marked the start of a renewed slowdown in growth," Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. "We think the latest recovery is made of sterner stuff, although we doubt it will set the world alight."

The latest reading is well above the recession low of 33.1 and above the long-run average of 52.8. But it's still below the pre-recession high of 61.4.

Dan Meckstroth, chief economist at the Manufacturers' Alliance, notes that in the past 20 years, the index has been at or above 54.8 only one-third of the time.

A measure of employment in the ISM's survey rose to a 10-month high. That indicates that factories are hiring at a solid pace.

A gauge of new orders jumped to its highest level in a year. That could signal faster production in the coming months. Export orders also rose, offsetting worries that weaker economies in Europe and China could drag on U.S. exports.

A separate report showed China's factory sector is still growing. A survey of purchasing managers in China found that the manufacturing sector expanded for the fifth straight month in April.

Wynn Macau gets OK for Cotai casino development

HONG KONG (AP)—The Chinese arm of Wynn Resorts Ltd. said it received approval on Wednesday for a new casino in the Cotai district of Macau, the world's most lucrative gambling market.

Wynn Macau Ltd. said the government of the southern Chinese gambling enclave published formal approval of a land transfer, paving the way for construction to begin on the 21 hectare (51 acre) site.

U.S. billionaire Steve Wynn, the founder, chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts, said the Cotai development is the "single most important project" in his company's history.

The company gave no other details about the project's approval, which has been long awaited by investors.

In its 2011 annual report, Wynn Macau said it plans a casino-resort on Cotai with 2,000 hotel rooms and space for conventions, shops, entertainment and restaurants, pending government approval. The budget and completion date were still being worked out.

The report also said the company paid a 500 million pataca ($62.6 million) deposit in December following its acceptance of a draft land contract. The company needs to make eight more semi-annual payments of 130.9 million patacas ($16.4 million), with the first due six months after the contract is published.

Wynn already operates another casino on peninsular Macau. The new resort would be its first in Cotai, an area of reclaimed swampland joining two islands that is the site of all the city's big new casino projects. Rivals such as Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Galaxy Entertainment Group already operate resorts there.

Galaxy announced last week that it's doubling the size of its flagship resort in Cotai in a $2.1 billion expansion. Sands China Ltd., the Macau arm of Las Vegas Sands Corp., opened its third Cotai resort in April.

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,279.32	1,405.81	3,050.44
65.69	7.91	4.08
+0.50%	+0.57%	+0.13%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.967	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7578	Philippine Peso	42.1425
British Pound	0.6164	Indian Rupee	52.935	Singapore Dollar	1.2372
Canadian Dollar	0.9858	Indonesian Rupiah	9188.75	South Korean Won	1127.45
Chinese Yuan	6.304	Japanese Yen	80.3725	Swiss Franc	0.9091
Euro	0.7566	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0248	Taiwan Dollar	29.146
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2274	Thailand Baht	30.79

Nation

In Kabul, Obama highlights foreign policy record

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama answered political taunts with presidential muscle Tuesday, making a high-profile trip to Afghanistan as Republicans said he's overdoing the celebration of Osama bin Laden's death one year ago.

The president's secret flight to Kabul—where he signed off on details for withdrawing U.S. troops from the decade-long war there—was the type of campaign counterpunch that may play out many times in his re-election battle against Republican Mitt Romney.

Obama began his visit at the same air base where Navy SEALs launched their daring raid on bin Laden's house in Pakistan.

Timing his pre-dawn speech in Kabul for evening viewing back home, Obama brought attention to his three chief foreign policy achievements: ending the Iraq war roughly as he promised in 2008; killing bin Laden, whose terrorist organization killed nearly 3,000 Americans on Sept. 11, 2001; and setting a timetable for ending the increasingly unpopular Afghanistan war.

Both political parties agree the Nov. 6 election will hinge mainly on the U.S. economy. Before the campaign gets fully engaged, however, Obama is using his presidential prerogatives—and risking new complaints of political exploitation—to make his strongest possible case on military and diplomatic fronts.

Republicans, and even some liberal allies, said Obama's team went too far in releasing a campaign video suggesting Romney would not have ordered the risky nighttime raid on bin Laden's suspected compound. But some Democratic strategists defended the strategy.

Obama "is in an unusually strong position, thanks to keeping his promises on Afghanistan and Iraq, overseeing the killing of Osama bin Laden and otherwise keeping America strong and secure," said Doug Hattaway, who worked for Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign against Obama in the 2008 Democratic primary. "The economy will remain top of the list for most people," Hattaway said, "but it definitely helps to highlight his successes in this area."

Vice President Joe Biden launched the political argument last week.

"Thanks to President Obama, bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive," Biden said in a campaign speech. "You have to ask yourself, if Gov. Romney had been president, could he have used the same slogan—in reverse?"

AP

President Barack Obama gets a high five as he greets troops at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Wednesday, May 2, 2012.

Secret trip trickled out then the trickle stopped

WASHINGTON (AP)—It was the secret that bent but never quite fully broke.

The White House released a fabricated Tuesday schedule for President Barack Obama to conceal the fact that he was secretly flying to Afghanistan. It asserted that the president would be in the Oval Office all day meeting with Vice President Joe Biden, with Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and with senior advisers. Only a handful of U.S. journalists were made aware of the journey.

But by mid-morning word was filtering out through the warp-speed social medium of Twitter that Obama was already in Kabul.

The first to tweet was the Afghanistan news site TOLOnews which reported: "United States President Barack Obama has arrived in Kabul to meet Afghan President Hamid Karzai."

A political reporter for BuzzFeed, a website that combines original reporting with trend spotting on the internet, picked up the TOLOnews report, tweeted it and noted that no other U.S. media was reporting it. Shortly, the New York Post placed the TOLOnews report on its website.

The White House mobilized to tamp down the news and grasped for the one fig leaf it had: The report's timing was wrong. Obama was still flying to Bagram Air Field Tuesday morning.

"I offered a factual response," White House National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor said. "No, he's not in Kabul."

BuzzFeed editor in chief Ben Smith wrote a post later that Vietor called and warned that the news could put the president and those with him at risk and asked that the BuzzFeed tweet be taken down. Smith agreed, saying that like most news organizations he deferred to the White House's judgment on true security risks. Soon, the New York Post removed its report as well.

The Associated Press was among a few news organizations notified in advance of Obama's trip and pledged to secrecy. Similar arrangements occurred when President George Bush traveled secretly to Iraq.

"There's a group of reporters that has to be aware of his movements in advance," Vietor said. "Those reporters are read into those movements with the agreement that whey won't report them until a predetermined time."

Vietor said no U.S. reporter in on the secret broke it.

FBI: 5 men charged in Ohio bridge bomb plot

CLEVELAND (AP)—Five men described by federal authorities as anarchists angry with corporate America and the government were charged Tuesday with plotting to bomb an Ohio bridge linking two wealthy Cleveland suburbs.

The men were arrested Monday night after unknowingly working with an FBI informant for months, a strategy that federal investigators have used repeatedly in recent years to nab alleged terrorists.

"They talked about making a statement against corporate America and the government as some of the motivations for their actions," U.S. Attorney Steven Dettelbach said in announcing the arrests with the head of the FBI in Cleveland, Stephen Anthony.

The alleged plotters researched explosives and obtained what they thought was C-4 explosives. The material, in fact, was harmless and the public was never at risk, because the men got it from the informant, officials said.

The men planted the fake explosives at the base of the bridge, armed them, went to a remote spot and "entered the codes that they thought would blow up the bridge with innocent people traveling over it," Dettelbach said.

The men were charged with conspiracy and trying to bomb property used in interstate commerce. All five appeared Tuesday in U.S. District Court, where Magistrate Judge Greg White ordered them jailed without bond pending a hearing Monday.

The suspects were identified as Joshua S. Stafford, 23, and Anthony Hayne, 35, both of Cleveland; Brandon L. Baxter, 20, of nearby Lakewood; Connor Stevens, 20, of suburban Berea; and Douglas L. Wright, 26; of Indianapolis. The charges carry possible penalties of more than 20 years in prison.

At the hearing, the men, with wrist manacles chained to the waist, sat in the jury box with their attorneys and acknowledged receiving copies of the complaint against them and an understanding of their rights.

At the end of the hearing, Stevens' father, James, shouted, "Love you, Connor." The father left court without commenting.

The target of the plot was a bridge that carries a state highway over part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and a picturesque scenic rail line and canal towpath in the Brecksville area, about 15 miles south of downtown Cleveland.

The men had been associated with the anti-corporate Occupy Cleveland movement but don't share its non-violent views, organizer Debbie Kline said.

Calif. man forgotten in cell says he drank urine

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A San Diego college student who federal drug agents forgot and left in a holding cell for five days without food, water or access to a toilet said Tuesday that he drank his own urine to survive.

Daniel Chong also said that he bit into his glasses to break them and tried to use a shard to scratch "Sorry Mom" into his arm, according to U-T San Diego (http://bit.ly/JRlSr8).

The 24-year-old University of California, San Diego, engineering student was swept up as one of nine suspects in an April 21 drug raid that netted 18,000 ecstasy pills, other drugs and weapons.

Chong said federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents told him he would be let go. One agent even promised to drive him home from the DEA field office in Kearny Mesa, he said.

Instead, he was returned to a holding cell to await release. DEA spokeswoman Amy Roderick said he was accidentally left there.

Chong said he could hear the muffled voices of agents outside his five-by-10-foot windowless cell and the door of the next cell being opened and closed. He kicked and screamed as loud as he could, but apparently, his cries for help went unheard.

"I had to recycle my own urine," he said. "I had to do what I had to do to survive."

When he was found on April 25, he was taken to a hospital and treated for cramps, dehydration and a perforated lung—the result of ingesting the broken glass.

"When they opened the door, one of them said `Here's the water you've been asking for," Chong said. "But I was pretty out of it at the time."

Chong also ingested a white powder DEA agents said was left in the cell accidentally and later identified as methamphetamine.

The agency hasn't commented on Chong's claim that he was without basic necessities for days.

Chong's attorney, Eugene Iredale, said he plans to file a claim against the federal government, and if it is denied he will proceed with filing a federal lawsuit.

ACROSS THE NATION

Officer shoots, wounds teen outside Texas school

PASADENA, Texas (AP)—A police officer told investigators Tuesday that he shot a 14-year-old boy suspected in the overnight break-in of a Houston-area classroom after believing the teenager was reaching for a gun. The boy was in critical but stable condition at a Houston hospital and was expected to survive, authorities said. The officer was placed on leave pending the investigation. Pasadena Police Assistant Chief Bud Corbett said the officer, a 17-year law enforcement veteran, told investigators he did not know how old the suspected burglar was when he shot him. The names of the boy and the officer were not released. The boy, an eighth-grader at the school, was shot in the chest.

NYC man convicted in thwarted subway bomb plot

NEW YORK (AP)—In what authorities called the most serious terror threat since the Sept. 11 attacks, a New York City man was convicted Tuesday of plotting with two of his former classmates at a Queens high school to attack the subways as suicide bombers. A jury deliberated less than two days before finding Adis Medunjanin guilty of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction, attempting to commit an act of terrorism and other terrorism charges. At trial, the jurors had heard the first-time testimony from admitted homegrown terrorists about al-Qaida's determination to strike America on its home turf.

Asia

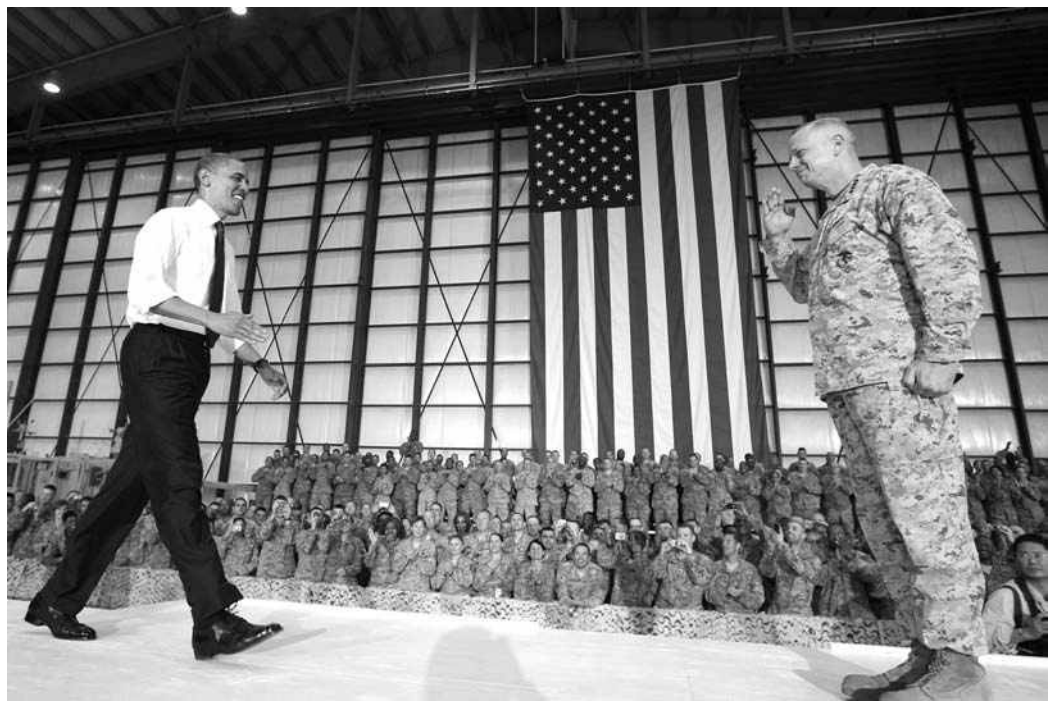
Obama sees 'new day' 1 year after bin Laden raid

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—On a swift, secretive trip to the war zone, President Barack Obama declared Tuesday night that after years of sacrifice the U.S. combat role in Afghanistan is winding down just as it has already ended in Iraq. "We can see the light of a new day," he said on the anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death and in the midst of his own re-election campaign.

"Our goal is to destroy al-Qaida, and we are on a path to do exactly that," Obama said in an unusual speech to America broadcast from an air base halfway around the world.

He spoke after signing an agreement with Afghan President Hamid Karzai to cover the decade after the planned final withdrawal of U.S. combat troops in 2014. Obama said American forces will be involved in counter-terrorism and training of the Afghan military, "but we will not build permanent bases in this country, nor will we be patrolling its cities and mountains."

In a blunt reminder of Afghanistan's fragile security situation, a series of explosions and gunfire erupted in Kabul just hours after Obama left, killing at least six people. The attacks occurred near a private armed compound that houses hundreds of international workers. One of the blasts was a suicide car bomb, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.



AP

Marine Gen. John R. Allen, commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, introduces President Barack Obama before he addresses troops at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Wednesday, May 2, 2012.

The president landed in Bagram in darkness, and his helicopter roared to Kabul for the meeting with Karzai, under close guard with only the outlines of the nearby mountains visible. Later, back at the base, he was surrounded by U.S. troops, shaking every hand. He ended his lightning visit with the speech delivered straight to the television camera - and the voters he was trying to reach back home.

Two armored troop carriers served as a backdrop, rather than the customary Oval Office tableau.

His Republican re-election foe, Mitt Romney, was in New York, where the destruction of the twin towers on Sept. 11, 2001, set in motion the decisions that led to the wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Romney accused Obama of politicizing the fleeting national unity that came with the death of bin Laden, the 9/11 terror mastermind.

In a statement released by his campaign later, Romney said he was pleased that Obama had returned to Afghanistan, that the troops and the American people deserved to hear from the president what is at stake in the war. "Success in Afghanistan is vital to our nation's security," he said.

At the air base, Obama said, "This time of war began in Afghanistan, and this is where it will end. ... With faith in each other, and our eyes fixed on the future, let us finish the work at hand and forge a just and lasting peace."

Earlier, he delivered a similarly upbeat message to the troops. Noting their sacrifice, he said, "There's a light on the horizon."

It was Obama's fourth trip to Afghanistan, his third as commander in chief. He was less than seven hours on the ground in all. He also visited troops at a hospital at the Bagram base, awarding 10 Purple Hearts.

According to the Pentagon, more than 1,800 American troops have been killed across more than a decade of war in Afghanistan.

Some 88,000 remain stationed there.

Taliban attack in Afghan capital kills at least six

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide car bomber and Taliban militants disguised in burqas attacked a compound housing hundreds of foreigners in the Afghan capital on Wednesday, officials and witnesses said. The Taliban said the attack was a response to President Barack Obama's surprise visit just hours earlier.

At least six people were killed in the early morning attacks, officials said, as blasts and gunfire continued to ring out from the privately guarded compound known as Green Village that houses hundreds of international contractors.

A series of explosions and gunfire rang out near the complex in eastern Kabul at around 6 a.m. and shooting continued for hours later. Another large explosion was heard coming from inside Green Village shortly after 9 a.m. and a large plume of smoke was seen rising from the compound.

An Afghan police official said two suicide attackers were still inside Green Village and were "resisting." The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

One of the first blasts was a suicide car bomb that exploded near Jalalabad road—one of the main thoroughfares out of the city, said Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi. A station wagon that was driving past was caught up in the explosion and four people inside were killed, Sediqi said. A passer-by and a security guard for a nearby building also were killed.

A young man who saw the explosion said the dead pedestrian was one of his fellow classmates.

"I was walking to school when I saw a very big explosion. A car exploded and flames went very high into the air," said 21-year-old Mohammad Wali. "Then I saw a body of one of my classmates lying on the street. I knew it was a suicide attack and ran away. I was so afraid."

A local resident who saw the attack unfold said the attackers were disguised in burqas - the head-to-toe robes worn by conservative Afghan women.

"A vehicle stopped here and six people wearing burqas entered the alley carrying black bags in their hands. When they entered the alley, there was an explosion," said Abdul Manan.

The explosions happened hours after Obama left Afghanistan after a quick visit to mark the first anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death. He spoke to troops and signed a pact with Afghan President Hamid Karzai to govern the U.S. presence in Afghanistan through 2024.

Blind lawyer strikes a popular chord in China

BEIJING (AP)—The blind activist at the center of a diplomatic tussle between the U.S. and China did not set out to be a dissident. Chen Guangcheng taught himself law to defend the constitutional rights he saw trampled so often.

"'What do the authorities want me to do? Lead a protest in the streets? I don't want to do that,'" New York University law professor Jerome Cohen recounted Chen as telling him in a moment of frustration after a local court rejected one of his lawsuits.

While Chen never took to the streets, his supporters rallied in his defense when he was imprisoned on what they call fabricated charges and when he was later kept under house arrest and beaten. Ultimately they helped free Chen, seeing him as a symbol for human dignity and for the promise that the law could bring justice in a society seen as unfairly tipped toward the powerful.

After Chen's surprising escape from his well-guarded rural home April 22 and into the protection of U.S. diplomats in Beijing, his fate is now being discussed in high-level negotiations. Both governments are trying to keep the case from overshadowing Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's arrival Wednesday for annual talks on global hotspots and economic imbalances.

Chen's predicament—his improbable flight to hoped-for freedom—has thrilled the many Chinese who are savvy enough to get around Internet censorship to learn about it. And it has reaffirmed for his supporters the qualities they have long admired: Chen displays a determination for upholding the law while exuding a charisma that reassures those around him.

"He's just the most extraordinary person," activist blogger He Peirong said Friday, four days after she picked up a bloodied Chen outside his village and sped toward Beijing and shortly before she was detained by police for helping him.

"He never gives up. He's very spirited, willful and optimistic," she said.

His principled steeliness was on display in a video statement recorded while he was in hiding last week. In it, he calmly catalogs the mistreatment of him, his wife, his 6-year-old daughter and his mother while under house arrest. He names the officials who took part in the abuse and then demands an investigation and the protection of his family members, whose whereabouts are not known.

"I also ask that the Chinese government safeguard the dignity of law and the interests of the people, as well as guarantee the safety of my family members," Chen said.

The 40-year-old Chen is emblematic of a new breed of activists that the Communist Party finds threatening. Often from rural and working-class families, these "rights defenders," as they are called, are unlike the students and intellectuals from the elite academies and major cities who led the Tiananmen Square democracy movement.

Myanmar begins new era as Suu Kyi joins parliament

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was sworn in to Myanmar's military-backed parliament Wednesday, taking public office for the first time since launching her struggle against authoritarian rule nearly a quarter century ago.

The opposition leader's entry into the legislature heralds a new political era in Myanmar, cementing a risky detente between her party and the reformist government of President Thein Sein, which inherited power from the army last year.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party will occupy too few seats to have any real power in the ruling-party dominated assembly, however, and there are fears the presence of the opposition lawmakers could simply legitimize the regime without any change.

But the new lawmakers are also likely to bring a level of public debate to the legislative body that has never been seen as they prepare for the next general election in 2015.

The solemn swearing-in ceremony took place in the capital, Naypyitaw, which was built by the former army junta. With white roses in her hair, Suu Kyi stood along with several dozen of her party's lawmakers as the speaker the lower house asked them to read the oath.

Speaking briefly to a mob of reporters afterward, Suu Kyi said her focus will be "to carry out our duties within the parliament as we have been carrying out our duties outside the parliament for the last 20 or so years."

Suu Kyi's ascent marks an astonishing reversal of fortune for a woman who became one of the world's most prominent prisoners of conscience, held under house arrest for much of the last two decades. When the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner was finally released in late 2010, just after a vote her party boycotted that was deemed neither free nor fair, few could have imagined she would make the leap from democracy advocate to elected official in less than 18 months.

But the road has not been easy. This week, Suu Kyi backed down in a dispute over the oath of office which, had it persisted, could have spiraled into another major crisis.

Suu Kyi and her colleagues had refused to join parliament when the latest session began April 23 because they object to phrasing in the oath that obligates them to "safeguard the constitution." They want the word "safeguard" changed to "respect," and have vowed to work to change the constitution because it was drafted under military rule.

But on Monday, Suu Kyi abruptly changed course, saying: "Politics is an issue of give and take. We are not giving up, we are just yielding to the aspirations of the people."

The party's failure to take their seats had irked some of Suu Kyi's backers, who were eager to see the woman who has stood up to Myanmar's military for 24 years finally hold office.

World

Workers express anger, gloom, elation on May Day

MADRID (AP)—On the front lines of the world's May Day protests this year, along with the traditional chants, banners and marches, a gamut of emotions flowed through the crowds: Anger. Fear. Elation. Despair.

With Europe's unemployed denouncing austerity measures, Asia's laborers demanding higher salaries and U.S. protesters condemning Wall Street, Tuesday's demonstrations by hundreds of thousands were less a celebration of workers' rights than a furious venting over spending cuts, tax hikes and soaring unemployment.

The protests came just days ahead of key elections in Greece and France, whose leaders have acutely felt popular anger over policies many feel are strangling any hopes of economic recovery. The rallies reflected deep pessimism in Spain, dealing with a fragile economy is in the cross-hairs of the European debt crisis.

Yet optimism and national pride emerged too. Over 100,000 turned out in Russia for May Day rallies that celebrated Vladimir Putin's government. And tens of thousands of workers rallied with joy in France, hoping this would be the last week of President Nicolas Sarkozy's conservative leadership.

AP

Communist Party supporters march with their flags during a rally to mark May Day in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

In the U.S., thousands of protesters lined up against major financial institutions in the country's most high-profile Occupy Wall Street rallies since the encampments protesting the gap between the superrich and poor came down in the fall.

Crowds blocked intersections in Oakland, California, trying to force businesses to shut down for not observing calls for a "general strike"; police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. Police in riot gear faced dozens of Occupy activists marching in front of a Bank of America in New York City, chanting "Bank of America. Bad for America." At least 15 people were arrested. Black-clad demonstrators smashed windows in Seattle.

About 50 members of the Occupy London movement brought tents and camping supplies to move into a square that houses the London Stock Exchange. There were no immediate reports of arrests.

Under a gray Madrid sky that reflected the dark national mood, 25-year Adriana Jaime turned out to march. Jaime speaks three languages and has a masters degree as a translator, but works for what she derided as peanuts in a university research project that has been cut from three years to three months due to a lack of funds.

"I am here because there is no future for the young people of this country," Jaime said as many marchers carried black-and-white placards with the word NO and a pair of red scissors.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is trying desperately to cut a bloated deficit, restore investor confidence in Spain's public finances, lower its 24.4 percent jobless rate, and fend off fears the country will soon need a bailout like Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

But Ana Lopez, a 44-year-old civil servant, argued the government is doing nothing to help workers and that the economic crisis is only benefiting banks.

"Money does not just disappear. It does not fly away. It just changes hands, and now it is with the banks," Lopez said. "And the politicians are puppets of the banks."

In France, tens of thousands of workers, leftists and union leaders marked May Day with glee, hoping that a presidential runoff vote Sunday will put a Socialist — Francois Hollande—at the helm for the first time since 1988. Many voters fear Sarkozy will erode France's welfare and worker protections, and see him as too friendly with the rich.

"Sarkozy has allowed himself for too long to manhandle the lower classes," said Dante Leonardi, a 24-year-old in Paris. "Today we must show ... that we want him to leave."

Hollande has promised high taxes on the rich.

"We are going to choose Hollande because we want something else for France. We want to keep our jobs, we want to keep our industrial jobs, we want a new economy," said protester Serge Tanguy.

Even in Germany, where the economy is churning and unemployment is at a record low, unions estimated that 400,000 people showed up at over 400 May Day rallies. The DGB union group sharply criticized Europe's treaty enshrining fiscal discipline and the austerity measures across the continent, calling instead for a stimulus program to revive the 17-nation eurozone's depressed economies.

After 50 years, Cubans hope to travel freely

HAVANA (AP)—After controlling the comings and goings of its people for five decades, communist Cuba appears on the verge of a momentous decision to lift many travel restrictions. One senior official says a "radical and profound" change is weeks away.

The comment by Parliament Chief Ricardo Alarcon has residents, exiles and policymakers abuzz with speculation that the much-hated exit visa could be a thing of the past, even if Raul Castro's government continues to limit the travel of doctors, scientists, military personnel and others in sensitive roles to prevent a brain drain.

Other top Cuban officials have cautioned against overexcitement, leaving islanders and Cuba experts to wonder how far Havana's leaders are willing to go.

In the past 18 months, Castro has removed prohibitions on some private enterprise, legalized real estate and car sales, and allowed compatriots to hire employees, ideas that were long anathema to the government's Marxist underpinnings.

Scrapping travel controls could be an even bigger step, at least symbolically, and carries enormous economic, social and political risk.

Even half measures—such as ending limits on how long Cubans can live abroad or cutting the staggeringly high fees for the exit visa that Cubans must obtain just to leave the country—would be significant.

"It would be a big step forward," said Philip Peters, a Cuba expert at the Virginia-based Lexington Institute. "If Cuba ends the restrictions on its own citizens' travel, that means the only travel restrictions that would remain in place would be those the United States imposes on its citizens."

The move would open the door to increased emigration and make it easier for Cubans overseas to avoid forfeiting their residency rights, a fate that has befallen waves of exiles since the 1959 revolution.

It could also bolster the number of Cubans who travel abroad for work, increasing earnings sent home in the short term and, ultimately, investment by a new moneyed class.

Scrapping exit controls should win Cuba support in Europe, which improved ties after dozens of political prisoners were freed in 2010.

But Peters and several other analysts said they doubt the new rules would bring about any immediate shift in U.S. policy toward Cuba, which includes a ban on American tourism. Those restrictions are entrenched and enjoy the backing of powerful Cuban American exiles.

"I don't think it would lead to a drastic change in U.S. policy, but an accumulation of human rights improvements could lead to an incremental change," Peters said.

Cuba-born Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Republican from Florida, said any discussion about immigration reform on the island is a peripheral issue.

Army mortar shells kill 10 in Syrian village

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian forces fired mortar shells into a farming village Tuesday, killing 10 people, among them two young children, and sending panicked residents running for cover, activists said.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous deplored the ongoing violence and promised to put 300 observers in Syria by the end of the month, up from the 24 in place now, in hopes of calming the situation.

"The level of violence in Syria has been appalling," Ladsous said.

The attack on the village of Mishmeshan near the Turkish border highlighted the vulnerability of Syrian civilians, especially children.

Nine of the dead in the village attacked were from one extended family, and many of a dozen wounded were children, activists said.

Five mortar shells hit the village at around 1 a.m., and after daybreak, survivors wrapped some of the dead in blankets and placed them in the backs of three white pickup trucks. Amateur video showed hundreds of mourners lining a street next to the parked trucks and praying over the bodies ahead of the burial. A senior U.N. official, Radhika Coomaraswamy, expressed alarm over "yet another wave of extreme violence killing and injuring children across Syria," referring to the mortar attack and other recent violence.

"I urge all parties in Syria to refrain from indiscriminate tactics resulting in the killing and wounding of children," said Coomaraswamy, who deals with children in war zones. She said more than 34 children were allegedly killed since an April 12 truce deadline.

In amateur video from Mishmeshan, a bearded man is seen storming a clinic. Counting on his fingers, he says the attack killed his mother, sister, two of his brothers and a nephew.

"That's my son!" he says, pointing to a wounded boy with white bandages on his legs, arms and back. "That's my brother and that's my nephew!" he says, pointing to a body on the floor in a pool of blood and another on a gurney. The wounded boy, who a narrator says is five, lies on his stomach and appears very frightened by the mayhem around him.

Another video shows a preteen girl whimpering when a medic tries to clean blood from wounds on her face and arm.

The U.N. says more than 9,000 people have been killed since the uprising against President Bashar Assad erupted more than 13 months ago. What began with largely peaceful marches gradually turned into an insurgency in response to a brutal government crackdown.

WORLD BRIEFS

Napolitano: No basis to El Salvador sex claims

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says the Secret Service has found no basis to allegations its agents hired strippers and prostitutes in El Salvador last year. The allegations had been made by an anonymous source on a Seattle television station after the service was embroiled in a prostitution scandal involving agents' conduct in Colombia last month. Napolitano said no basis to the claims had been found after interviews with some of the Secret Service agents who were in El Salvador at that time. She discussed the matter Wednesday with The Associated Press on her visit to New Zealand. She said while the interviewing likely was to continue, "to date, nobody has been able to substantiate that anonymous story."

Junta takes camp in Mali capital, claims control

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—After fierce fighting in Mali's capital Tuesday, troops loyal to the junta overran the main camp of the soldiers who tried to oust them in a countercoup.

Gunfire echoed across Bamako as Malian government troops battled each other, killing at least 12 people. Mali's coup leaders who took power over a month ago and ostensibly handed control over to an interim civilian government on April 12, said they control the state broadcaster, the airport and a military base, fending off attacks by opposing forces. Coup leader Capt. Amadou Sanogo told a private radio station Monday night that the countercoup had failed and that his soldiers have captured foreign fighters.

France fetes Joan of Arc's 600th birthday

ORLEANS, France (AP)—The normally tranquil city of Orleans is buzzing with festivities over the next two weeks to mark the 600th birthday of one of France's best cultural exports: Joan of Arc. On Tuesday, like in a Hollywood epic, the Loire River swarmed with wooden boats filled with locals dressed in medieval garb—reenacting Joan of Arc's legendary entry into the city in 1429. It's an event that liberated Orleans from English invaders, and sealed her place in the history books. It has inspired, over the centuries, myriad novels, poems, rock songs, operas, plays—and even a blockbuster feature film with Milla Jovovich.

Focus

US woman becomes hero for battered wives in China

BEIJING (AP)—Her head was ringing from the blows. Once, twice, three times, her husband slammed her face into the living room floor.

Kim Lee tried to twist her tall but skinny frame out from under his 200-pound body, scraping her elbows and knees on the carpet. He kept on pounding. Eight, nine, ten times—she thought she might black out.

Then, close to the floor, she glimpsed the neon pink-painted toenails of her 3-year-old daughter, Lydia. "Stop!" the child cried. "What are you doing? Stop, daddy, stop!" She jumped on her father and scratched his arm.

"Damn it!" he yelled. He loosened his grip on his wife, and she crawled away.

It wasn't the first time in their relationship that Li Yang, a Chinese celebrity entrepreneur, had struck her—but for his American wife, it was going to be the last.

She scooped up her wailing child, grabbed their passports and a wad of cash, and walked out of their Beijing apartment. And in doing so, she opened the door to a torrent of anguish about domestic violence in her adopted country, inadvertently becoming a folk hero for Chinese battered women.

Domestic violence everywhere lives in the shadows, and in China it thrives in a secrecy instilled by tradition that holds family conflicts to be private. It is also hard to go public in a country where many still consider women subservient to their husbands, and there is no specific national law against domestic violence.

At least one in four women in China is estimated to have been a victim of domestic violence at some point in her life, surveys show, with the rate in rural areas as high as two out of every three women. The violence takes many forms, from physical and sexual assault to emotional abuse or economic deprivation.

Lee's case has spawned tens of thousands of postings on Chinese Twitter-like sites, along with protests and talk show debates. It is especially explosive because she is a foreigner, at a time when China is particularly sensitive about how it is understood and treated by the world.

"A lot of people said, 'Oh, is it because Kim is an American and so she's too strong-willed, or her personality is too strong?'...Some others have asked whether she is making a big fuss over a small issue," says Feng Yuan, founder and chair of the Anti-Domestic Violence Network in Beijing. "This shows that in terms of the public perception of domestic violence, we still have a long way to go."

The story of Li Yang and Kim Lee is documented in photographs, letters, text messages, police documents and hospital records seen by The Associated Press, as well as extensive interviews with her in Beijing. Li refused repeated requests for interviews, but in past interviews on TV and on his microblog, he has confessed to beating his wife.

They met on the first day of her first trip to China in 1999, in what Lee has come to see as "yuanfen," or fate.

Then a teacher in Miami, she was visiting a Chinese school to learn about bilingual education. He was there to speak about his popular program, "Crazy English," a radical approach to learning the language that involved hand gestures and slogans such as "Conquer English to Make China Stronger!" Li sold more than English lessons—he sold a life philosophy of shedding inhibitions, with a patriotism that resonated with many in today's China.

Li persuaded her to move to China to work for him. Inspired by a Chinese folktale called Journey to the West, he called himself the "Hopeless Master" and Kim his "Monkey Queen," to the delight of colleagues. In private, he wrote to her that "a hopeless master can't survive without his monkey queen."

They married in a Las Vegas chapel in 2005, a few years after their first daughter Lily was born. But with Li away at workshops much of the time, the relationship grew strained.

One day, during an argument over money, he slapped her hard, she says. She blamed herself. "Just drop it, just don't make him angry," she thought. Another time, arguing about work, he pushed her in front of their colleagues.

In February 2006, while Lee was seven months' pregnant with their second child, her husband promised to accompany her to the hospital for a test. He did not show up.

Lee went home and deleted four chapters of a textbook she had written for him. When he called, she told him, "I want you to understand what it feels like when you count on someone to do something and they don't."

He hung up.

The next day, while she was baking cupcakes with their daughter, he flew into the kitchen and knocked a hot pan out of her hand. He grabbed her by the hair, threw her on the floor and choked her. She reached up and pushed a clothes rack at him.

He managed to land a few kicks on her stomach, but she turned on her side to protect the unborn child. Despite bruises on her legs and body, a sonogram showed the baby was all right. Li said later he "could not tolerate" threats to his work.

Lee did not tell her family or friends about the beating. She thought it was her fault for provoking him, and he seemed sorry.

She mentioned it to her sister-in-law, who dismissed her concerns, saying: "It's nothing. All men are like that."

The expectation that all men are violent—or at least have the right to be violent—is common in parts of China.

As with many countries, men historically ruled the family, with authority over women and girls. Women were supposed to obey their fathers when young, their husbands when married and their sons when widowed, according to advice attributed to the ancient sage Confucius.

AP

In this Thursday, March 22, 2012 photo, Kim Lee, center, wife of "Crazy English" founder Li Yang, is surrounded by local journalists as she walks into a court for her divorce trial in Beijing, China.

Those who broke family laws could be beaten, with no questions asked.

Communism brought new laws that gave women the right to work alongside men, and decades of economic growth have created dramatic shifts in Chinese society. But inequities persist, particularly in rural areas.

There is no official data on domestic violence in China today, and underreporting is common. However, a recent nationwide survey by the All-China Women's Federation found that 25 percent of women reported domestic violence from their spouses, almost the same as in the United States. Smaller-scale studies report a rate in Chinese rural areas of up to 65 percent.

"What it shows is the tip of the iceberg," says Feng, the advocate against domestic violence. "How big the iceberg really is, we actually don't know."

Wei Tingting is one of about 10 activists who staged a protest over Lee's plight on Valentine's Day on a busy pedestrian shopping street in Beijing. She and two other women wore bridal gowns splashed with fake blood and make-up that looked like bruises on their faces.

Wei, who grew up in the Chinese countryside in southern Guangxi province, often saw her father beating her mother. Her grandfather hit her grandmother too.

"The neighbors around us were doing the same, everyone took it to be a very normal thing. You beat a woman because the woman is at fault," says the 23-year-old. "Some women even think that it is their fault, that's why they are beaten."

Li Yang grew up in a city in the remote western Xinjiang region, where he says he was a shy child afraid to answer the phone or leave the house. In 2004, his father Li Tiande told a Beijing newspaper he raised his son with a firm hand, and recounted an incident when a colleague told him Li had been up to mischief.

"At that time, I felt like I had lost face," the elder Li said. "So I gave Li Yang a beating when I returned home."

After the scandal with his wife erupted last year, Li acknowledged in an interview with Chinese state broadcaster CCTV that his relationship with his parents was bereft of emotional or physical intimacy. He said he still suffers from mild depression.

"Just holding my father's hand or giving him a hug, I would get goosebumps," Li said. "Something was broken in the middle...I grew up in an environment that was lacking. You will find that my ability to love is poor. It is a problem."

By 2009, Lee was plotting her escape. But how? She worked for her husband's company, with no independent income and no bank account. She lived in an apartment under her sister-in-law's name, and relied on cash Li brought home in envelopes every month. And she was afraid that without money, she would lose custody of their three children.

Lee started to push back. She told her husband she wanted a home under her name, a monthly deposit in her account and a life insurance policy for him.

"You control everything in my life," she complained.

"Shut up," he warned.

"I will not shut up," she responded.

He stood up. "I said, 'shut up.'"

She got to her feet also. "I will NOT shut up," she said.

Then came the beating that finally drove her out. When he let go, she grabbed Lydia and walked to the police station. She hesitated at the door, then thought of her daughter, took a deep breath and walked in.

The police told her they could do nothing unless her husband came also. They brought her to a hospital, where male staffers examined her, placed stickers on her body and photographed the bruises on her head, knees, elbows and back. She avoided eye contact with them.

That night, Li sent her a message that he had hit her only 10 times, and that a carpet under her had softened the blows. "I was not that cruel," he wrote.

He refused to go to the police station. So she got his attention the best way she knew how—through the Internet.

First, she posted a profile shot of the bump on her forehead on her Chinese microblog. The next night, it was a photo of the bruises on her knees. And then, a frontal shot of the forehead and another of a bleeding ear.

It worked. "Crazy English" is a household name, and Li had a lot to lose from negative publicity among the students who fork out thousands of yuan to hear him.

"Kim, could you cancel that weibo," Li said in a text message, referring to the microblog account. "It will damage many things. I love you!"

Instead, the photos went viral. And Lee went from having about two dozen followers on her microblog to more than 20,000 in a few days, and three times as many now.

Her husband sought to portray the dispute—and the marriage—as a clash between East and West.

He said on TV that he had married Lee to research American child-raising techniques, turning the relationship into a cross-cultural experiment. He painted her as the American woman who thinks family should come before career and country, who fails to see that family business in China is private and that a Chinese man occasionally hitting his wife should be forgiven.

"I still think that things that happen at home, well, a family's shame should not be aired publicly," Li said on a talk show. "I thought it could cause huge damage to me and my career. So I asked her to remove these photos. She refused."

Culture has become part of a heated dialogue about the incident. Men have said that while violence is wrong, it comes from the immense pressure Chinese husbands face to excel in their careers and provide for their families. Others have lamented that it took a foreign woman's indignance to cast light on what is an open secret in China.

In October, she filed divorce papers. He replied with a text message: "You think you Americans are smarter??? Let's see!!! Americans want to win a war in China???"

"No, Li Yang, this is your twisted, xenophobic mind and way of thinking," responded Lee, who is seeking at least half his assets. "Our war is not between nations, but between character."

Now the case is before the courts, and she can do little but wait. Li has claimed in divorce proceedings that he is not guilty of domestic violence because he did not beat her frequently over many years.

In the meantime, she has changed the locks on her apartment. Last week, her husband sent her an angry text message: "In America you should be killed by your husband with gun. This is real American way. You're so lucky to be in China!"

Later, he wrote, more succinctly, "Kill you!"

Yet when asked if she still loves him, she says she is not sure.

"I hate what he has done to me and our family....but I cannot say that I hate him," she says. "Maybe the better question is not do you love him, but does love mean accepting and forgiving someone's violence?

"For me, it does not."

Environment

Antarctic research shows Earth headed toward thawing period

By WILLIAM MULLEN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—For the last 5 million years, the frozen polar ends of the Earth have melted on a regular basis, raising sea levels dramatically to heights that, if achieved today, would inundate most of the world's major cities and coastal areas where billions of people live.

Scientists studying those polar freeze/thaw cycles reported in two papers in Thursday's edition of the research journal *Nature* that it appears Earth is headed toward another thaw—and this time, it's being hurried along by carbon dioxide pollution in the atmosphere.

The research dealt specifically with the ice sheets that sit atop West Antarctica, which contain enough water that world sea levels would rise 16 feet if it all melted. Such a thaw would take a thousand years at least, a long time in human terms but a blink in geological time.

The new papers both drew on core samples extracted from the Antarctic Ocean floor in 2006 as part of the ANDRILL project, one of the largest scientific undertakings ever for the continent. The international project involved 53 scientists.

By examining millions of years' worth of sediments, researchers found that the ice in West Antarctica collapsed and melted about every 40,000 years during the Pliocene epoch 3 to 5 million years ago—a time when Antarctic conditions were similar to today's.

Back then, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were up to around 400 parts per million when the polar ice began melting on a massive scale, said Northern Illinois University geologist Ross Powell, a co-director of the study. "We are now at 386 parts per million and rising," he said, and it grows by one part per million every year.

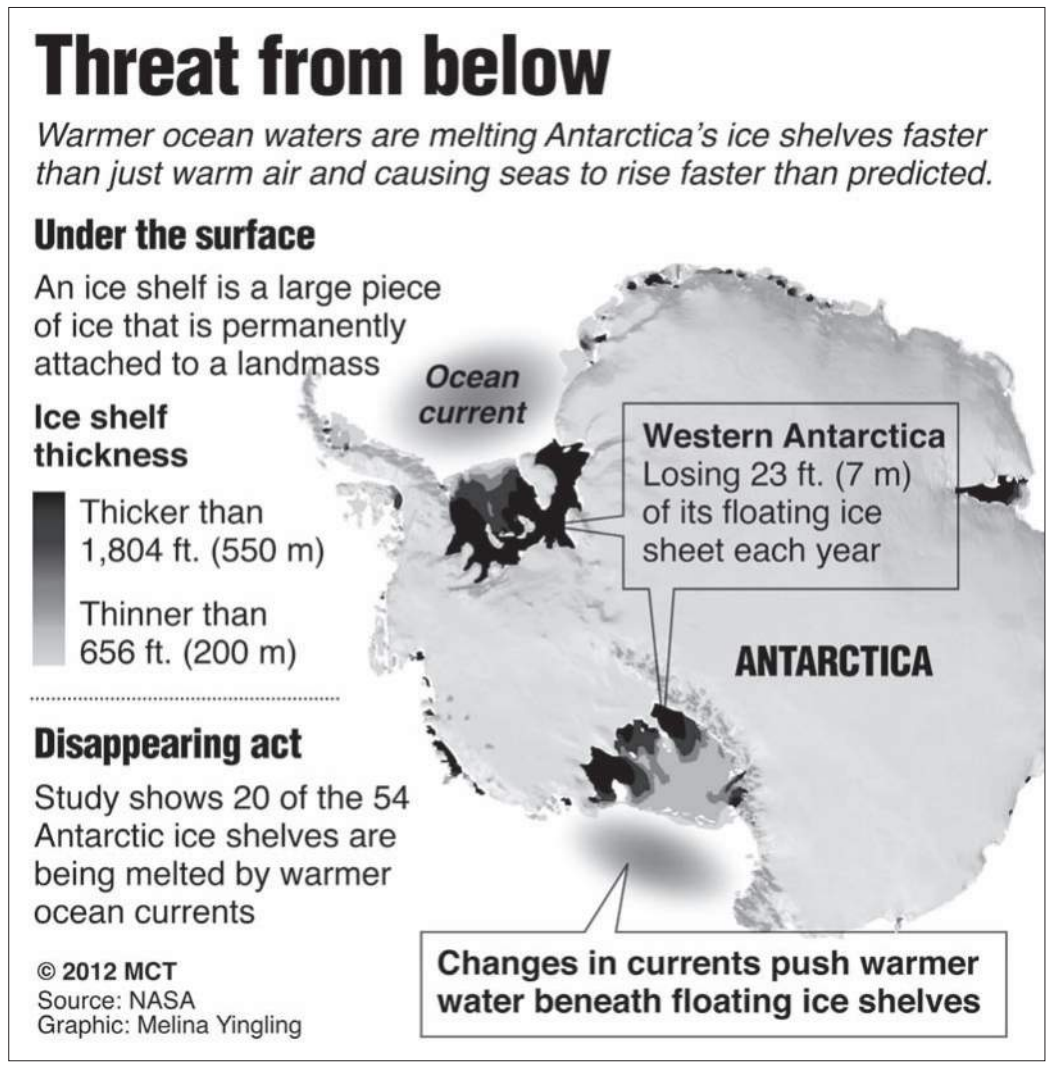
The concern, he said, is that the current rise in carbon dioxide levels—driven by human activity over the last 200 years, mostly the burning of fossil fuels—is causing unprecedented global warming and putting West Antarctica on the fast track to melting.

The Earth's average annual temperature has risen 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the last 100 years, but over Antarctica, which holds 70 percent of the world's fresh water as ice, it has risen 4.5 degrees.

"Even if it might take a thousand years or more for the West Antarctic Ice Sheet to disappear, the melting before then could be significant enough that humans should really be taking note ... as we worry about our future generations," Powell said.

Natural polar freeze/thaw cycles occur because of a periodic shift in the tilt of the Earth's axis, known as the Milankovitch Cycle.

"The tilting changes the amount of radiation absorbed into each hemisphere of the Earth, depending on which hemisphere is tilted closest to the sun," said Powell. With the change comes a gradual buildup of atmospheric carbon dioxide that ANDRILL records show eventually caused drastic loss of ice in West Antarctica.


Threat from below
Warmer ocean waters are melting Antarctica's ice shelves faster than just warm air and causing seas to rise faster than predicted.
Under the surface
An ice shelf is a large piece of ice that is permanently attached to a landmass
Ice shelf thickness
Thicker than 1,804 ft. (550 m)
Thinner than 656 ft. (200 m)
Disappearing act
Study shows 20 of the 54 Antarctic ice shelves are being melted by warmer ocean currents
© 2012 MCT
Source: NASA
Graphic: Melina Yingling
Ocean current
Western Antarctica
Losing 23 ft. (7 m) of its floating ice sheet each year
ANTARCTICA
Changes in currents push warmer water beneath floating ice shelves

But now, human activity appears to be having its own effect on the world's climate by driving temperatures warmer than they otherwise would be, said Northern Illinois University geologist Reed Scherer, also on the ANDRILL research team. Some climatologists believe global temperatures should even be slightly cooling at this time.

"If something is an external cycle, it should be predictable," Scherer said. "But it is much more complicated than that, and we seem to be throwing the pattern off balance now."

Also in Nature was a report from David Pollard of Pennsylvania State University and Robert DeConto of the University of Massachusetts, who used ANDRILL data to simulate Antarctic ice sheet variations over the past 5 million years.

The two climate modelers found that the ice sheet atop West Antarctica could move between full, intermediate and collapsed states over only a few thousand years.

Today, even a partial melt-off raising sea levels by 4 feet would put at risk an estimated half a billion people who live along shorelines.

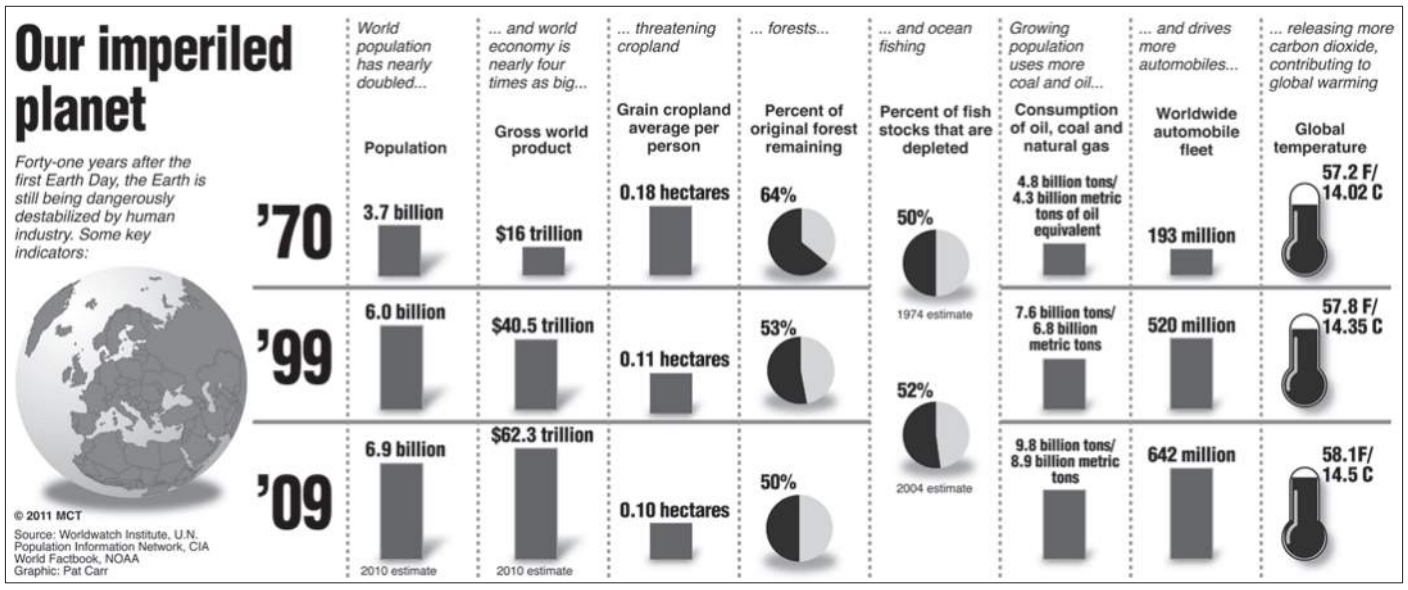
DeConto said warming ocean temperatures play a key role in how fast polar ice melts, both the ice sheets and the floating ice shelves to which they are attached. The shelves extend for miles into the ocean around Antarctica.

"The next big step," said DeConto, "is to determine what is happening to the ocean temperatures under the ice shelves and around the ice sheet. We really need that information."

Top 5 ways to make every day Earth Day

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

We always hear a lot about Earth Day approaching, but what about now that it's past? Did you commit to any new ways to lower your impact on the planet? While taking a day or even a month to celebrate our planet is a noble cause, it's something we really should be doing every day of the year. Taking a few green steps doesn't have to be difficult or costly. In fact, when you Do Your Part for the planet, you'll also find that you're lowering the pressure on your pocketbook. Here are my Top 5 Ways to Make Every Day Earth Day.



BE ENERGY EFFICIENT

Spring for an energy audit of your home. I was shocked at what I discovered when one was done at my home. Energy audits identify if your cooling and heating systems are working properly, if you have proper insulation, and what you can do to conserve energy and money immediately. Then, go to DoYourPart.com to find easy ways to improve on those weak spots.

WASTE LESS WATER

There are simple ways to start conserving water at home without suffering. Turning off the water while you brush your teeth is the simplest place to start. Then, make bigger steps such as installing low flow fixtures or water displacement devices for your toilet. Outside, a rain barrel will make it inexpensive and easy to water your garden. If you rely on a sprinkler system, use it only when necessary. A long dose of water once a week is much better than several days of short watering.

CUT BACK ON CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

There are so many sources of potentially dangerous chemicals that we bring into our homes—many times without even realizing. It could be from everyday household cleaners to dry cleaned clothes. Chemicals sneak into our homes every day and can contribute to all sorts of health problems. Visit DoYourPart.com/Columns to learn about these toxins and easy ways to reduce your exposure.

BE AN EDUCATED BUYER

When you choose to buy more earth-friendly items, you are sending a powerful message to manufacturers and retailers. There are important questions you should ask yourself before buying anything. Where does this product come from? What does it take to manufacture this product? Is it really safe? And, can it be recycled?

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

This is at the heart of what it takes to be a bit greener each day. There's no question why "Reduce" is first. When we reduce everything from the amount of energy we use at home to all the "stuff" we think we can't live without, it helps conserves our planet's resources. Then there's reusing. Reusing doesn't just mean getting more use out of a glass jar that once held foods. It means installing that rain barrel to help water your yard, buying gently worn children's clothes instead of brand new, and even composting scraps of food. Finally, there's recycling. I find that once I created easy-to-use recycling systems at home—everyone got on board.

There's a lot we can—and should be—doing for our environment. When you Do Your Part and I do mine, together we'll protect our planet for generations to come. So celebrate the Earth by doing your part every day.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of "Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living" available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

Carrie Underwood learns from imperfect moments

This April 19, 2012 photo shows Carrie Underwood in Nashville, Tenn. Underwood's latest release "Blown Away," was released Tuesday, May 1.

AP

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—"American Idol" did more than launch Carrie Underwood's career—it helped shape the picture-perfect image she has today.

In interviews and public appearances, she never has a hair out of place and always says the right things. She only recently decided it was safe to join Twitter, and if there's ever a controversial tweet from her account, assume it got hacked.

Her carefully crafted persona doesn't come from "American Idol" media training, but rather from what she feels were cringe-worthy moments during her winning run on the show in 2005 that stereotyped her as a naive "country girl."

"I'm glad I can present a polished version of myself when it counts. When I was on 'Idol,' I said some dumb stuff, and learned what that could do, and that stuff lives on," said the Oklahoma native. "It seemed like every single solitary stupid thing I said was aired and featured and replayed over and over and over again."

After that, the 29-year-old made a conscious effort to portray herself in public as what she calls a "somewhat intelligent person" who graduated from college.

Yet when recording her fourth album, "Blown Away," out Tuesday, Underwood allowed herself to be unguarded, and sometimes downright silly.

"When you go in to write, you have to be willing to sound stupid," said Underwood during a recent interview at the Grand Ole Opry, of which she is a member. "Before you have a chance to think about something, you blurt it out and it doesn't make any sense, and everybody gets a good laugh out of it. You can't be afraid to sound completely dumb when you go to write."

She's giving herself permission to be a little less concerned about her image these days as well. It has taken her multiplatinum, Grammy-winning success, as well as the confidence of co-writing six of her 14 No. 1 country singles, for her to get comfortable with letting her personality shine through in more than just her music.

"Blown Away" represents Underwood's continued growth as an artist. She co-wrote eight of the album's 14 tracks, a far cry from the one tune she penned on her debut album. The disc is also a diverse collection, both musically and thematically.

The title track pulsates with a dance beat over a storyline describing a girl who heads to a storm shelter, hoping a tornado will destroy her home and her drunk, abusive dad asleep upstairs. "One Way Ticket" sways with a reggae groove. "Cupid's Got A Shotgun," featuring Brad Paisley on guitar, introduces fans to her redneck side. And "Wine After Whiskey" is a heartbreaking break-up ballad that has a classic feel.

Grammy-winning songwriter Josh Kear, known for hits like Underwood's "Before He Cheats" and Lady Antebellum's "Need You Now," wrote four songs on "Blown Away." Three were penned with Underwood, including the foreboding "Two Black Cadillacs" about a wife and a mistress who conspire to get even with the man who betrayed them both.

Kear, who had never written with Underwood before this record, was thrilled with her as a collaborator. The day they wrote the quirky "Cupid's Got A Shotgun," Kear had suggested the title at the beginning of the session, and they had spent two to three hours working on another tune before getting stuck.

"Suddenly, she starts stomping her feet and clapping her hands and singing essentially what is now the melody for `Cupid's Got A Shotgun.' She had somehow, while we were in the process of writing this other song, been mulling it over in her brain and came back to that title," he said.

Kear jumped right in, and they wrote the song in about 15 minutes.

"It was kind of goofy, and a lot of people don't get to see that loose, goofy side of her, and I think that is one of the reasons she was excited to get those songs is she gets to bring a side of herself that hasn't really always been out there," he said. "Hopefully now people will imagine that as part of who she is."

Country fans have seen Underwood's comedic side as co-host of the Country Music Association Awards with Paisley for the past four years. Executive producer Robert Deaton had worked with Underwood and saw another side of her behind the scenes, which is why he initially tapped her for the job.

"The more you know her, the more you like her," he said. "That outgoing personality, just funny, timing is perfect, witty. She's also incredibly intelligent and smart as well."

Deaton believes the CMA Awards gig has been very important to balancing out her career. During writing sessions for the show, he said Underwood is quick to make a joke even funnier or throw out an idea that is spot on. He says her quick-witted delivery on stage is "very much who she is."

"Her participation is so deep on many levels (of the show.) On one hand, she can do comedy. On the other hand, she can also bring class and beauty to the broadcast," he said. "Then she can go out and do an unbelievable performance, so it's multi-layered of what she brings to the table."

While Underwood has brought more of her personality into play with "Blown Away," she is careful to point out its songs—many of which have a dark, edgier tone—are not a reflection of her personal life.

"When I think of my career and when I think of `Carrie Underwood,' that has kind of taken on a life of its own. I feel like when I'm on stage, when I'm writing songs, singing songs, I'm in the studio, I'm shooting videos, I kind of get to become this character, and I can make that whatever I want to make that. I honestly in a lot of ways don't want to sing about my real life, because that's private," she said. "I'm pretty private about my personal life and my husband and our life together, and I think it's so wonderful I can separate the two. I get to be an actress. I get to play a character. I get to have fun and tell stories."

And she's apparently not a bad actress in real life. She jokes that she's "got everyone fooled" if they think she's flawless.

"My husband (NHL player Mike Fisher) calls me `the queen of awkward moments.' If something can be said to make an awkward moment even worse, I'm going to say it," she said.

Museum of Contemporary Art honors Annie Leibovitz

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Annie Leibovitz has photographed practically every celebrity, rock star and politician over the past four decades, but when she was honored by the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, she showed a photograph of Niagara Falls.

Leibovitz received the 7th MOCA Award to Distinguished Women in the Arts Tuesday at a private luncheon at the Regent Beverly Wilshire hotel in Beverly Hills. She showed the Niagara Falls image and told a story about a recent trip there with her children featured in her new book, "Pilgrimage."

She said the MOCA honor "means a lot to me."

"This award has been given to a great group of women, very distinguished company," she said, noting that artist Barbara Kruger was among the guests Tuesday. "And here I am in California. This is where I learned to be a photographer."

Leibovitz, 62, started shooting for Rolling Stone magazine in 1970 while still a student at the San Francisco Art Institute. She went on to work for Vanity Fair and Vogue and has released several books of her photographs. Her "Pilgrimage" collection is currently on view at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Some of her most iconic images include a naked John Lennon curled around clothed Yoko Ono and Demi Moore nude and pregnant on the cover of Vanity Fair.

Ever humble, Leibovitz snapped photos, Facebook-style, with fans' pocket cameras before accepting her award from her friend Maria Shriver.

AP

Photographer Annie Leibovitz, right, and Maria Shriver greet each other at the 7th Annual MOCA Award to Distinguished Women in the Arts luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif. Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

In one of her rare public appearances since filing for divorce from Arnold Schwarzenegger last summer, Shriver described Leibovitz as a living legend and "a woman of brilliance."

"I'm here out of friendship for her, but really out of respect for the way she has lived her extraordinary life," Shriver said. "You have chosen (to recognize) a woman who has had an incredible effect not just on the arts, not just on fashion, not just on photography, not just on women, but on all of us."

Actresses Marisa Tomei, Rosanna Arquette and Daphne Zuniga were among the celebrities at the luncheon that benefited MOCA's educational programs. A group of young students participating in Contemporary Art Start also attended the event.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$6.00	Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$6.00	All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.75	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$6.00	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.

TIMEWARP TUESDAY
$6.00 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

Friday, Apr. 27th through Thursday, May. 3rd, 2012
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NOW SHOWING

Pirates! Band of Misfits

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Hugh Grant, Brendan Gleeson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Set sail for fun with this family-friendly Aardman Animations adventure following a bumbling, abundantly bearded scallywag who competes against his two biggest rivals for the title Pirate of the Year. Try as he might, the Pirate Captain (Hugh Grant) just can't be taken seriously as a plunderer. But that might change if he could only manage to win the Pirate of the Year competition. As the event gets under way, the Pirate Captain makes it his mission to leave dreaded foes Black Bellamy (Jeremy Piven) and Cutlass Liz (Salma Hayek) sinking in his wake.

Safe

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

The Five Year Engagement

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Jason Segel, Emily Blunt
Comedy • Rated R

The Lucky One

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Drama • Rated PG 13

Three Stooges

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Cabin In The Woods

Friday		4:20		9:35
Saturday		4:20		9:35
Sunday		4:20		
Monday thru Thursday		4:20		

Richard Jenkins, Bradley Whitford
Thriller • Rated R

Wrath Of The Titans

Friday			7:20	
Saturday	1:20		7:20	
Sunday	1:20		7:20	
Monday thru Thursday			7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, an Oscar state is displayed outside the Kodak Theatre in preparation for the 84th Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Oscars to stay in same theater for 20 more years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Oscars will be in Dolby.

The CIM Group, which owns the Hollywood & Highland Center, announced a 20-year deal on Tuesday with the audio technology company Dolby Laboratories Inc. to rename the Academy Awards venue as the Dolby Theatre.

In a separate deal, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences revealed a new agreement to keep the annual Oscars extravaganza at the theater for 20 more years.

"We are thrilled that Dolby is now the name of the theater because Dolby stands for excellence," said Tom Sherak, president of the motion picture academy. "It's a no-brainer for us."

The posh four-level, 3,400-seat theater, formerly known as the Kodak Theatre, has been home to the Academy Awards since 2002. CIM Group dropped the Kodak name from the theater earlier this year after a bankruptcy court judge approved the early exit of 131-year-old Eastman Kodak Co. from a 20-year naming rights deal it signed with CIM Group in 1999.

During this year's Oscar ceremony, host Billy Crystal jokingly referred to the space as the "Chapter 11 Theatre."

Sherak said the motion picture academy, which did not immediately renew its deal with CIM Group last year, briefly considered moving ceremonies to another venue but decided to keep the Oscars in Hollywood.

"We got a number of suggestions from people saying, `we'd love to have you,'" said Sherak. "We talked to them, and they gave us some offers that they would have loved to negotiate with us, but we stopped there because the board met and we decided we wanted to be in Hollywood with the awards show."

Sherak said the motion picture academy has approval over the theater's name as part of the deal it negotiated with the theater's previous owner.

No financial details of the new agreements were disclosed. Kodak previously paid a $3.6 million annual fee for the naming rights.

Dolby, which creates audio technologies spanning from homes to theaters, said in a statement that it will use the Hollywood venue to "create a world-class showcase for Dolby's current and future technologies, beginning with the company's revolutionary new Dolby Atmos sound technology released last week."

The 47-year-old company said it would began enhancing the theater's sound system this summer when the naming agreement commences.

The 85th annual Academy Awards are scheduled for Feb. 24, 2013.

Rare Paul Cezanne watercolor fetches $19M at NY auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A rare watercolor study by Paul Cezanne believed lost for nearly 60 years fetched over $19 million at a New York City auction on Tuesday.

Christie's auction house said "A Card Player" sold to a buyer who wished to remain anonymous. The price included the buyer's premium.

The watercolor was a study for Cezanne's celebrated series of oil paintings titled "Card Players." It was rediscovered this year in the collection of the late Dr. Heinz Eichenwald, a well-known collector from Dallas, Texas.

It shows a man in a hat and jacket seated at a table. Rendered in hues of blue and ochre, it was previously known to scholars only from a black-and-white photograph.

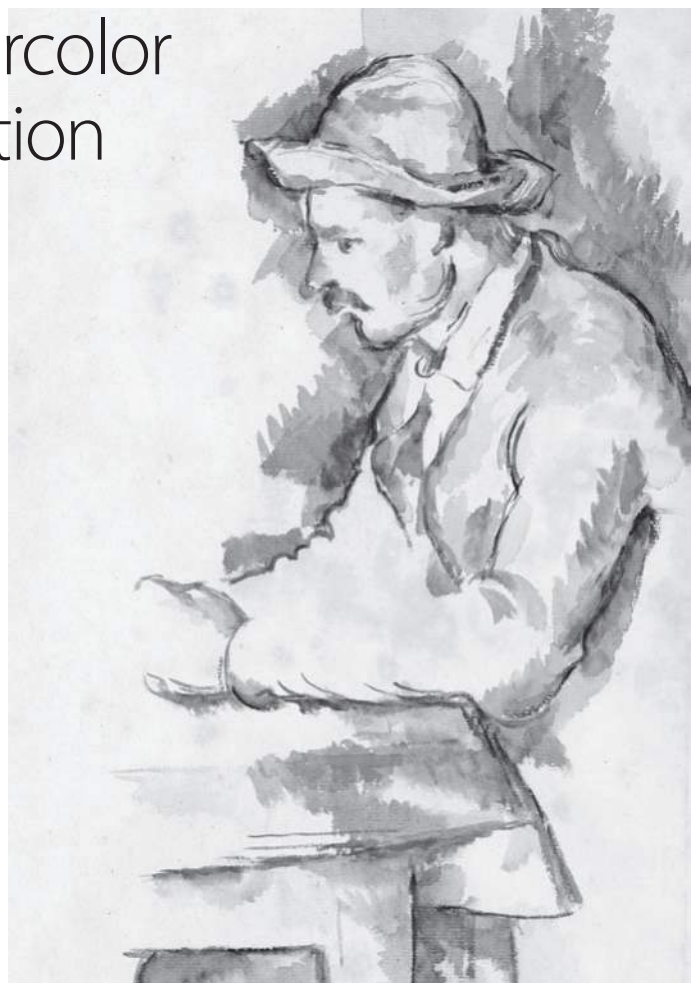
The French post-impressionist artist created the five-painting "Card Players" series between 1890 and 1896.

The preparatory study offers a rare glimpse into Cezanne's creative process. The figure in the painting is that of Paulin Paulet, a gardener on Cezanne's estate near Aix en Provence, France. It was last displayed at a New York gallery in 1953.

Christie's said Eichenwald inherited the work from his father.

Its presale estimate was $15 million to $20 million.

The Courtauld Gallery in London exhibited the five-painting series in 2010; the exhibition traveled to the Metropolitan Museum of Art last year.



This undated file picture provided by Christie's shows a rare watercolor study by French artist Paul Cezanne believed lost and last seen in 1953.

AP

Jessica Simpson gives birth to a baby girl

NEW YORK (AP)—The Jessica Simpson baby watch is finally over.

Simpson gave birth to a daughter named Maxwell Drew Johnson in Los Angeles on Tuesday, said publicist Lauren Auslander.

Maxwell weighed 9 lbs. 13 ounces.

Since announcing her pregnancy last Halloween over Twitter, Simpson posed nude for the cover of Elle magazine, shared her cravings like salted cantaloupe and pop tarts and joked about her excess of amniotic fluid on "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

Maxwell is the first child for 31-year-old Simpson and her 32-year-old fiance Eric Johnson, a former NFL player.

The name is a tribute to the couple's families: Maxwell is Johnson's middle name and the maiden name of his mother, and Drew is Simpson's mother's maiden name.

AP

In this Nov. 29, 2011 file photo, singer Jessica Simpson, right, poses with her fiance Eric Johnson at the 25th Annual Footwear News Achievement Awards at The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"We are so grateful for all of the love, support and prayers we have received," Simpson said in a statement on her website. "This has been the greatest experience of our lives!!"

Simpson had come in for some ribbing about her seemingly endless pregnancy. She kept up public appearances, including on NBC's "Fashion Star," and used Twitter to send pregnancy updates, such as her dream of wearing a leopard caftan in the hospital.

Recently even celebrities like Katy Perry and Chelsea Handler posted tweets asking if the singer and fashion designer had given birth yet. "I'm getting frightened," Handler said.

Simpson addressed the rumor mill herself in April, tweeting: "To everyone who keeps congratulating me on the birth of my baby girl ... I'm still pregnant!"

Fans can watch every Olympic event live online

NEW YORK (AP)—Usain Bolt could be defending his Olympic 200-meter title on a Thursday afternoon in the United States.

Fans will be able to watch the race live online for the first time during this summer's London Games, but what they'll see is very different from the tape-delayed, prime-time package that will still air a few hours later.

NBC executives decided to shift from their longtime philosophy and make every event available as it happens, convinced that the plan will build interest in the Olympics and not siphon off viewership from the traditional nightly broadcasts. That means the Internet streams will be fairly minimalistic, a move aimed at tempting fans to re-watch the competition in a more stylized presentation on the network that evening. "You'll be able to live the moment," said Rick Cordella, the vice president and general manager for NBC Sports Digital.

The online coverage will use the world feed instead of NBC camera angles. That's what viewers in many smaller countries see on their local networks, so the production is high quality, if less specialized than Americans are used to for the Olympics. There will be basic graphics and, for some popular sports, announcers from the Olympic Broadcasting Services.

Cordella said he didn't know yet which commentators would call high-profile events like track, swimming and gymnastics for the OBS.

And if Bolt wins in another world record, fans will have to wait until prime time to see a post-race interview.

"It's not infringing upon prime time," Cordella said.

NBCOlympics.com streamed many smaller sports live during the 2008 Beijing Olympics for a total of 2,200 hours, but the big-ticket events were held back. This year, more than 3,500 hours will be shown on the website. For the top sports, replays will not be available online until after the event airs in prime time.

The service will include extra feeds for certain sports—fans can watch each apparatus in its entirety during gymnastics and up to five courts for tennis.

Most of the Internet streams will be available only to viewers who subscribe to cable or satellite services. They will need to "authenticate," log in to prove they are customers. The "TV Everywhere" model has become popular with many networks as a way to allow viewers to watch programs on multiple devices while encouraging them to stick with cable and satellite providers. Cordella said he believed viewers were becoming more familiar with the process.

Social media has proliferated since Beijing, and NBC is counting on buzz from viewers who watch events live to attract others to the prime-time broadcasts.

"If Bolt sets a record and prances over the finish line," Cordella said, "you want to see that."

Another celebrity is dismissed from 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jaleel White can cross dance rehearsals off his to-do list: The 35-year-old actor is done with "Dancing With the Stars."

White was eliminated from the hit ABC dance-off Tuesday after losing the show's "final dance duel" to fellow competitor Roshon Fegan.

The two actors were at the bottom of the leaderboard coming into the episode after judges scores and viewer votes were tallied. White and Fegan faced off with a simultaneous rumba, and the judges deemed Fegan the winner.

White joins previously ousted contestants Gavin DeGraw, Gladys Knight, Sherri Shepherd, Jack Wagner and Martina Navratilova.

Fegan will return to compete next week, along with actors William Levy and Melissa Gilbert, singer Katherine Jenkins, TV personality Maria Menounos, and football star Donald Driver.

OSS agent who led WWII rescue of 500 dies in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—George Vujnovich, the intelligence agent who organized a World War II mission to rescue more than 500 U.S. bomber crew members shot down over Nazi-occupied Serbia, has died in New York. He was 96.

Vujnovich is credited with leading the so-called Halyard Mission in what was then Yugoslavia. It was the largest air rescue of Americans behind enemy lines in any war.

Vujnovich was a member of the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner to the CIA.

His daughter, Xenia Wilkinson, said her father died of natural causes at home in Queens on April 24.

The long retired salesman of aircraft parts was formally awarded the Bronze Star in 2010. Vujnovich said upon receiving the honor: "Better now than never."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

4-alarm fire damages Tyler Perry Studios in Ga.

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta fire officials say they have put out a 4-alarm blaze at Tyler Perry Studios that damaged a building at the complex. Atlanta Fire Department spokesman Capt. Jolyon Bundrige says there were no reports of injuries from the fire that started before 9 p.m. Tuesday. Officials said in a news release it was extinguished about an hour later. He says the cause of the fire and the amount of damage to the complex was not immediately known. A spokesman for Tyler Perry did not immediately comment Tuesday evening. The studio's website says the complex includes a 200,000-square-foot studio, five sound stages and a 400-seat theater in southwest Atlanta. In March, pop star Cee Lo performed for donors at a fundraiser for President Barack Obama at the studios.

Allman cleared in heart tests, starting book tour

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Gregg Allman will begin a book tour next week after passing heart tests at The Mayo Clinic. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member had delayed the tour after experiencing arrhythmia following recent hernia surgery related to his 2010 liver transplant. Publicists say Allman underwent tests at the Jacksonville, Fla., clinic last Friday and was cleared. His new memoir, "My Cross to Bear," came out Tuesday. The 62-year-old keyboard player and singer will start the tour May 8 in Atlanta. Stops include Nashville, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City. Allman was a founding member of The Allman Brothers Band. In the new memoir he chronicles the band's rise to fame, his own personal struggles with drugs and women and his brother Duane's death.

Wisdom of age teaches man to hold his fire after insult

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: While standing in a serving line at a restaurant, a man commented to my wife about her weight. She was very upset. My take was, "Don't talk to strange men." Later, I wondered whether I should have confronted the guy, slugged him or waited for him in the parking lot.

As a young man I was prone to rash actions. I would like to think in my golden years that I have outgrown this tendency. Still, I'm not sure I handled the situation correctly. I want my wife to be confident that I would come to her defense. Please advise.

TEXAS TOM

DEAR TEXAS TOM: Although as a young man you were prone to rash actions, as a mature one you gained the ability to control your temper. Had you confronted the boor, the situation would have escalated and you could have wound up in the pokey charged with assault. I'm advising you that you were correct to do nothing. The man is lucky your wife didn't "serve" him a fist sandwich. A lesser woman might have.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When my husband, "Jeff," and I married, we drew up a medical proxy and health-care directives should future incapacitation arise. Jeff is now terminally ill with brain cancer and has about five months to live. Over the last two years he has been through four surgeries, 25 doses of radiation, countless doctors' appointments, physical therapy and enough pills to fill a steamer trunk. I had to quit working because Jeff is now my full-time job.

As his illness progresses, we have discussed placing him in a hospice. But the closer he gets to death, the more he changes his mind. He demands that I lift, jerk and pull him in and out of bed. When I can no longer do this, he wants me to install a hoist. He needs assistance eating, dressing, bathing, using the toilet and is in a wheelchair.

Jeff's tumor is growing, causing pressure and affecting his mental attitude. He's impatient, demanding, selfish and nasty. I'm caring for him at home because it's his home and I am his wife. Somehow, his illness makes him feel entitled to act like a selfish child. At what point do I put him in a hospice facility without his family calling me a nasty witch and Jeff kicking and screaming to be let out and return home?

END OF MY ROPE

DEAR END: Please accept my sympathy. Your husband is sick and in pain, probably frightened and the cancer may have affected his ability to think rationally.

If you haven't discussed this with your husband's doctor, you must. It may not be necessary to place Jeff in an in-patient facility because many terminally ill patients can receive the same care in their homes. However, it will take a referral from a doctor, certifying that your husband has six months or less to live. Much of the cost is covered by Medicare, and most insurance also covers it.

Hospice provides visits from doctors, nurses, home health care aides and volunteers who can help with bathing your husband, changing his linens and some of the lifting that you're worried about. For your sake and his, you should contact the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. It can help you find a hospice provider. The toll-free phone number is 800-658-8898 or log onto www.nhpco.org.

Because you're afraid of criticism from Jeff's family, tell them that he—and you—need them to step in and help with his care because it has become more than you can handle alone. If they agree, it will give them precious time with him. If not, they'll be in no position to criticize you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

BAD NEWS, DAD. THE CHARACTER ISSUE IS KILLING YOU IN THE POLLS.
WHAT CHARACTER ISSUE?! I'VE GOT GREAT CHARACTER! I'VE GOT CHARACTER UP TO HERE!
THAT'S WHAT WE HATE.
MY ONLY FLAW IS A PRETERNATURAL INTOLERANCE OF PESKY KIDS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

BEWARE OF NOTHING
THERE'S GOTTA BE A CATCH...
JIM DAVIS 5-3
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
©2012 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CLAYTON, A 54% TEST SCORE IS UNACCEPTABLE. WE JUST TALKED ABOUT YOUR GRADES.
SORRY, MOM.
SORRY? I JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE WHAT YOUR DAD LOOKS LIKE WHEN HE WALKS IN AND SEES THIS.
YEAH.
HI!
WHAT? THE COSTUME SHOP IS HAVING A GOING-OUT-OF-BUSINESS SALE.
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Long-time TV host Griffin
5 Lion or tiger
8 Wound cover
12 Lotion additive
13 Caustic solution
14 Dorothy's dog
15 Violent protest
16 Always, in verse
17 Soldiers collectively
18 Connected series
20 Incursion
22 Finds by chance
26 Actor Lorenzo
29 Chart format
30 Cistern
31 Unsigned (Abbr.)
32 Corral
33 Long story
34 Hostel
35 Skillet
36 Choir member
37 Region of Northern Ireland
40 Repast
41 Griped
45 Out of the storm
47 Inseparable
49 Cab
50 Transmit
51 Summer mo.
52 Finished
53 Compassion
54 "CSI" evidence
55 Relax

DOWN

1 Painter Chagall
2 Director Kazan
3 Cheer (for)
4 11/11 honoree
5 Pristine
6 Nay canceler
7 Lay of the land
8 Flight component
9 Fine-grain leather
10 $ dispenser
11 Tarzan's son
19 Greek consonants
21 Expert
23 Shell out
24 Starch-yielding palm
25 Luminary
26 Secular
27 — Domini
28 Historically significant building
32 Spacecraft statistic
33 Any of 100 in Washington
35 School org.
36 Pair
38 Indigent
39 Last letter
42 Hub
43 Former partners
44 Gossip
45 Cleopatra's slayer
46 Mainlander's memento
48 Sister

Solution time: 25 mins.

		A	P	E			A	M	I			
		P	L	E	A		A	M	I	N	E	
A	U	G	E	R			B	A	G	G	E	D
G	R	A	N	D	F	A	T	H	E	R	E	D
O	R	E			R	E	S	I	T		I	C	E
				R	U	S	H				D	E	A	N
		S	I	E	M	S		C	U	R	R	Y		
F	C	H	O				P	O	N	Y				
G	A	R			E	D	U	C	E			S	U	E
G	R	A	N	D	I	L	L	O	Q	U	E	N	T	
		F	L	E	C	E			U	N	D	U	E	
			L	A	M	E	S			A	D	A	M	
				R	A	D				L	O	N		

Yesterday's answer 5-3

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50				■	51			■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cheryl Burke, 28; Christina Hendricks, 37; Dule Hill, 37; Frankie Valli, 78.

Happy Birthday: Take charge instead of letting others push you around. The way your future unfolds will be based on how you deal with others. Lend a helping hand, organize your time creatively and don't be afraid to use pressure to get things moving at the pace you require to meet your deadlines. Your numbers are 4, 9, 13, 21, 35, 41, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A happier atmosphere will develop if you get to know your colleagues better. Forming an alliance with someone you feel has similar goals will help you bring about reforms that lead to greater efficiency and profits. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Volunteer to do something nice for someone and you will enhance your reputation. Research an area of interest and you will find a way to incorporate it into your plans. An old idea, look or trend can be brought back to life successfully. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Diversify, and you will come up with something special. Love is in the stars, and making romantic plans will pay off. A little extra attention to your home will result in added comfort and efficiency. Protect your assets and the people you love. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A change of plans may not suit you, but instead of making a scene, make whatever alterations are necessary and go about your business. Don't waste time trying to convince someone to do things your way. Give others freedom and space. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Protect your position, reputation and status. Not everyone will be supportive, and some may even try to make you look bad. You will overcome any opposition if you keep your story straight and live up to your promises. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take the path that offers the most in return. Don't waste your time trying to win someone over who isn't interested in contributing to your cause. Check out new locations that will make you reconsider your options and your direction. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Share your feelings, and concentrate on relationships that are important to you. Make personal alterations that will add to your appeal and boost your confidence. The way you handle others will determine how far you advance. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Secrets will not help you get to the bottom of a situation that is causing you grief. You have to address issues head-on if you want to be able to move forward. Revenge and jealousy are a waste of time. Focus on success. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Network, socialize and interact with people who share your interests. A partnership you develop will enable you to further your ideas and plans. Both personal and professional changes can and should be put into play. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let anyone put demands on you or your time. You have to give your undivided attention to the projects and people who can benefit you most. Home improvements should be made that add to your comfort and improve your health. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't agree to do things you don't want to do. Someone you love will help you recognize what you must do to stabilize your life. Change is required, but it doesn't have to cost you. Moderation is your ticket to advancement. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Disappointment is likely if you count on someone. Do whatever needs to be done and keep moving. Don't let anyone play emotional mind games with you. Do your best to pay off outstanding financial, emotional or physical debts. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dependable and determined. You strive to be first and faultless.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7	1			4			2	8
			1		6			
	9	4	3	5	9	2	7	
		7	6		2	8		
			7		8			
5				9				6
	2						9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	7	4	1	6	3	2	8
4	3	6	5	8	2	1	9	7
2	8	1	9	3	7	6	4	5
8	9	5	7	4	3	2	1	6
6	7	2	1	5	9	8	3	4
1	4	3	6	2	8	5	7	9
7	1	9	3	6	5	4	8	2
3	6	8	2	7	4	9	5	1
5	2	4	8	9	1	7	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/03

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIBRARY OVERDUE FEES **Solution: 8 letters**

D	S	I	G	N	R	N	T	M	L	G	E	T	E	D
A	A	U	T	Ⓔ	A	O	E	E	R	E	P	L	E	R
M	E	I	Ⓣ	O	T	T	C	A	G	I	T	A	S	E
A	R	Ⓐ	L	A	S	I	C	N	E	T	D	T	M	P
G	Ⓡ	F	L	Y	T	E	I	C	E	L	A	I	E	O
E	O	I	S	O	G	S	E	S	I	M	T	L	E	R
S	R	N	N	R	S	R	S	N	P	M	W	L	L	T
K	C	E	A	I	E	E	E	G	O	E	U	Y	R	Y
L	S	H	M	C	N	T	P	N	N	R	R	C	E	U
A	C	E	O	I	T	E	T	E	E	I	B	I	V	T
T	R	R	D	O	N	H	R	C	V	O	W	L	O	I
E	D	R	G	A	L	D	A	U	O	A	N	O	C	D
S	A	R	L	Y	T	L	E	K	C	S	W	P	E	E
T	O	T	A	C	L	E	A	R	E	N	T	D	R	R
F	Y	L	E	C	N	A	C	L	I	M	I	T	S	C

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 5/3

Book, Cancel, Card, Charge, Clear, Cost, Credit, Daily, Damages, Date, Deadline, Desk, Error, Fine, Forgotten, Grace, Incur, Late, Letter, Limits, Loan, Missing, Monthly, Notice, Owing, Penalty, Period, Policy, Rate, Recall, Receipt, Records, Recover, Reminder, Renew, Report, Rule, School, Settle, Sign, Stamp, Status, System, Tally, Tardiness, Time, Total, Wave

Yesterday's Answer: Hairdos

To order "THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 and $[illegible] ... Universal Uclick, 4520 Speaker Rd., Kansas City, MO 64133 and add sales tax. To charge by phone, call toll-free 1-800-642-2406. Order online at [illegible]

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

Seriously looking for used cars Year 2003 & up 4 cylinder. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution: Go back on your word

Job Vacancy Announcement

Beautician

Hairspectations Salon

Call 670-287-6365

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Saipan Tribune
Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Two men rob sleeping man at Fishing Base
Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SRCR welcomed nine new members in 2011
Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

REVERSE YOUR WORD

WHATZIT™ & © 2012 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Lakers hold off Nuggets to take 2-0 series lead

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 38 points, Andrew Bynum followed up his playoff-opening triple-double with 27 points and nine rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers weathered Denver's late rally for a 104-100 victory over the Nuggets on Tuesday night, taking a 2-0 series lead.

Pau Gasol had 13 points, 10 rebounds and five assists for the third-seeded Lakers, who still haven't trailed in this series despite nearly crumbling against a much-improved effort by the Nuggets and Ty Lawson, who scored 25 points and led the fourth-quarter charge.

Los Angeles' 19-point lead in the third quarter dwindled to four with 3 minutes to play, but Ramon Sessions scored four key points in the final 1:14 before Bryant's icing free throws with 9.4 seconds left.

Game 3 is Friday in Denver.

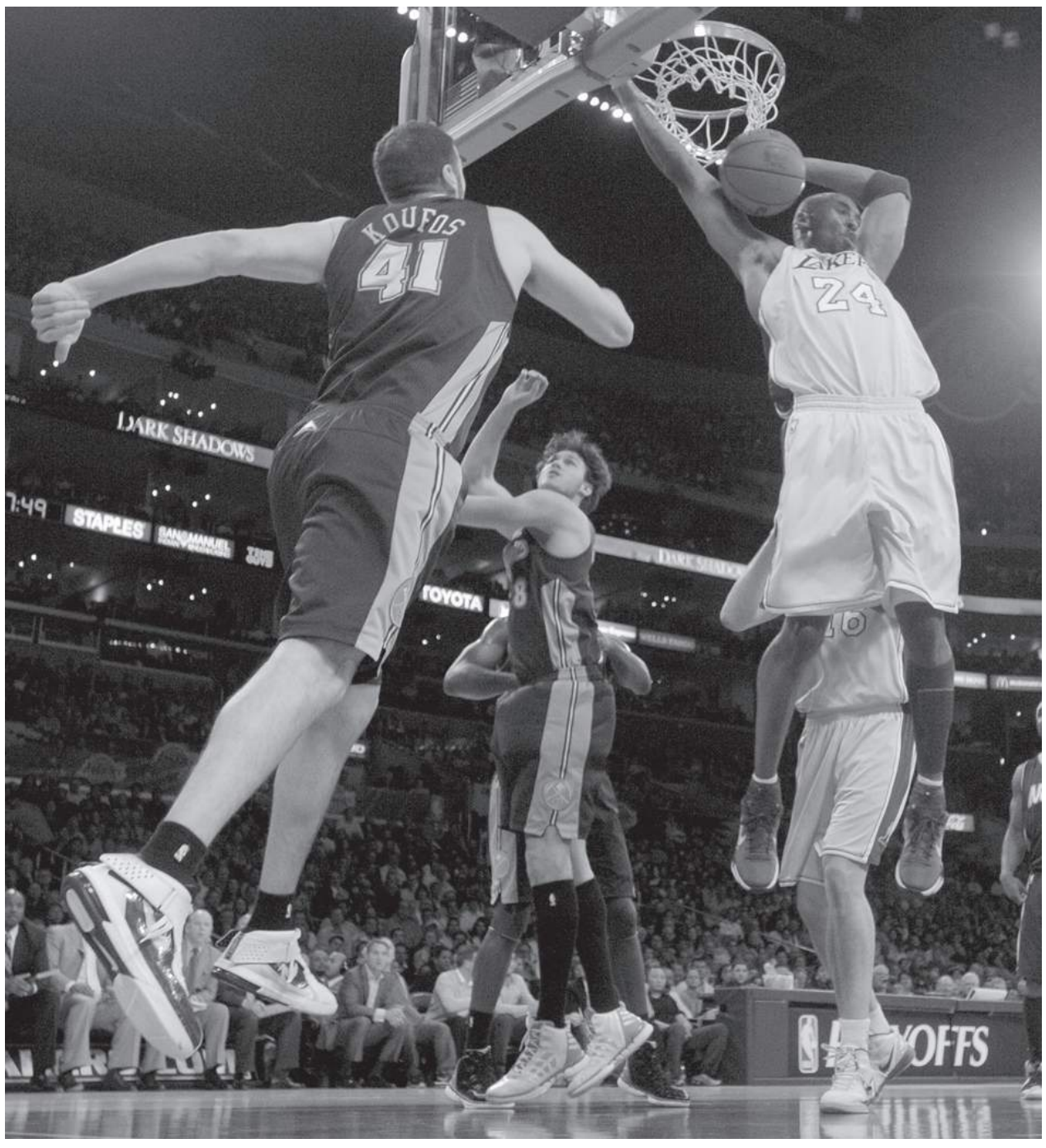
Lawson shook his awful series opener with 17 second-half points, but the sixth-seeded Nuggets lost their ninth straight road playoff game despite playing much closer to their preferred speedy tempo after the Lakers muzzled them in Game 1.

Sessions scored 14 points for Los Angeles, which played just enough fast-break ball of its own to stay ahead of Denver—and now the Lakers are halfway to the second round. They have only lost one playoff series in franchise history after winning the first two games, going 42-1.

Kenneth Faried had 14 points and 10 rebounds while Danilo Gallinari and Corey Brewer added 13 points apiece, but Denver still couldn't consistently defend Bryant or negate Bynum, who played another outstanding low-post game on both ends until disappearing a bit in a three-point fourth quarter.

A 14-5 run in the final minutes eventually trimmed Los Angeles' lead to 98-84, but Sessions hit a teardrop layup with 1:14 to play, and Bryant made a slick steal on the other end. JaVale McGee's tip-in with 30 seconds left trimmed the Lakers' lead back to four, but Sessions and Bryant hit their free throws.

Jordan Hill shook off brewing legal troubles to contribute six points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who used just three reserves. Denver's bench outscored the Lakers' reserves 35-8.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, right, scores as Denver Nuggets' Kosta Koufos looks on during the first half of a NBA first-round playoff basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Bynum blocked just two shots after swatting 10 in the Lakers' series-opening victory, but Denver minimized his dominance with home run passes, speedy outlets and 30 fast-break points.

Denver coach George Karl attempted to help through the media after Game 1, saying Bynum and the Lakers played illegal defense constantly during the opener. Karl tried another gambit before Game 2, saying Staples Center is not a noisy, intimidating road building, but more like "a Broadway stage."

The Lakers were called for no illegal defenses in Game 2.

Los Angeles stretched its seven-point halftime lead to 19 in the third quarter with a 14-0 run, but the Nuggets trimmed it back to seven entering the fourth quarter with an 18-4 run.

Denver cut the lead to four points late on consecutive hustle plays by Faried, but Bryant scrapped for a loose ball on one end and led the break to the other, feeding Bynum for a dunk—his first points of the fourth quarter—and a foul with 2:15 to play.

Hill produced another strong performance off the Lakers' bench a day after news broke of a felony assault charge against him in Houston, where he played for the Rockets before a late-season trade. Hill said Tuesday night he was "shocked" by the charges, but thinks he won't miss any time in the Lakers' championship quest.

76ers 109, Bulls 92

In Chicago, Jrue Holiday scored 26 points and Lou Williams added 20 as Philadelphia beat Chicago to level their first-round playoff series in the Bulls' first game since Derrick Rose's season-ending knee injury.

The point guard received a standing ovation and waved to the crowd as he limped onto the court to present the game ball, then watched from the stands as the 76ers outscored Chicago 36-14 in the third quarter to take an 83-69 lead.

Game 3 is Friday in Philadelphia.

Holiday was 11 of 15 from the field, and the Sixers shot 59 percent overall. Evan Turner chipped in with 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Joakim Noah led the Bulls with 21 points and eight rebounds and John Lucas III scored 15 points.

Rose missed 27 games during the regular season because of a variety of injuries, and the Bulls went 18-9 in those games.

Celtics 87, Hawks 80

In Atlanta, Paul Pierce had 36 points and 14 rebounds as Boston wiped out Atlanta's 11-point lead in the second half even without point guard Rajon Rondo.

The series is level at 1-1. Game 3 is Friday night in Boston, and Rondo will be back for that one having sat out a one-game suspension for bumping an official in the opener.

The Hawks took a 65-54 lead late in the third quarter. But Boston sliced it to 66-61 by the end of the period. Pierce hit his first 3-pointer of the series after missing 10 to stretch the lead to 79-72 with 3 1/2 minutes left.

Pierce finished 12 of 26 from the field and dropped to his knee and Tebowed after a free throw that locked it up with just a minute to go.

Kevin Garnett had 15 points and 12 rebounds for Boston.

Joe Johnson had 22 points for Atlanta.

Spurs' Popovich is the NBA *Coach of the Year*

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Gregg Popovich can't win like the old days. No longer can the San Antonio Spurs simply feed Tim Duncan the ball, let their defense do the rest and ride that game plan to NBA championships.

But the new way Popovich has them winning isn't bad, either.

That acknowledgment came Tuesday when Popovich was honored as the NBA's Coach of the Year after leading San Antonio to 50 wins and the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference. The Spurs defied naysayers who have written them off as too old since their last title in 2007 and did so in a lockout-shortened season that tested every coach when it came to managing minutes and finding practice time.

"If you can draft David Robinson and follow that up with Tim Duncan, that's a couple of decades of very, very possible success unless you just screw it up," Popovich said. "So it's hard to take credit when circumstances have gone your way so consistently."

Popovich also won the award in 2003 when San Antonio won its second of four championships, and he might be headed for a fifth ring if the Spurs keep this up. They're doing it partly thanks to a supporting cast of rookies and former NBA no-names that Popovich has turned into a surprise frontrunner.

He whipped them into winners quickly. After a bumpy 12-9 start, the Spurs lost just seven more games the rest of the season.

"Pop has done a terrific job molding a mix of experience and inexperience," Spurs general manager R.C. Buford said.

Popovich received 77 first-place votes. Chicago coach Tom Thibodeau was second (27), Indiana coach Frank Vogel was third (7) and Memphis coach Lionel Hollins was fourth (6). Boston's Doc Rivers and Denver's George Karl each received a vote.

Thibodeau, last year's recipient, said a case could be made for Popovich to win every season.

"I'm happy for him. They've had a great season," Thibodeau said. "The way he runs an organization, you can't say enough about him. The thing I really admire about him is I had an opportunity to meet him 20 years ago, and he's the same guy today that he was then. All the success, the championships, he has not changed one bit."

The Spurs practiced Tuesday before the NBA made the afternoon announcement. All-Star Tony Parker, who might be having the most complete season of his career, later tweeted congratulations to the only NBA coach he's ever known.

Not that Popovich, one of the NBA's most famously mercurial and colorful coaches for 16 seasons, is likely to be found on social media.

"Well deserved!!!" Parker wrote.

The season loomed as one of Popovich's toughest projects yet. Besides Duncan, 36, and Manu Ginobili, 34, growing another year older, the Spurs started the year with much of the same roster that fell in the first round to the up-and-coming Grizzlies last spring.

But Popovich, who is also team president, looked in unlikely places to keep San Antonio's championship window from shutting. Although he typically keeps rookies on a short leash, Popovich put forward Kawhi Leonard in the starting lineup by midseason and has kept him there for the playoffs. Swingman Danny Green, who the Spurs have previously cut multiple times, found his way into the starting lineup and emerged as a surprise offensive spark.

Popovich also steered the Spurs through what has typically been a death knell for them in recent years: injuries to their Big Three. Ginobili missed nearly half the season after breaking his hand, yet San Antonio still kept winning without their playmaking guard.

Popovich was aggressive as ever in keeping his stars healthy. He willingly surrendered 11-game winning streaks twice by playing without Duncan, Parker and Ginobili to avoid wear and tear. When he didn't play them in Portland, a disgruntled fan chided Popovich in a letter for denying his family the chance to see three of the NBA's biggest stars in person.

Popovich wrote the fan back. He understood, "but I have a different priority, a different responsibility. That rules for me."

Duncan has said that kind of decision-making has made this Popovich's best coaching season yet.

Popovich deflected the praise.

"Timmy just wants to get minutes," Popovich said. "He's just trying to ingratiate himself."

Popovich has a record of 847-399 since 1996, making him the league's longest tenured coach with the same team. He is one of only five coaches with four or more NBA championships, joining Pat Riley, Phil Jackson, John Kundla and Red Auerbach, whom the Coach of the Year award is named after.

A case also could've been made for Thibodeau to repeat as winner. The Bulls tied the Spurs with an NBA-best 50 wins even with reigning MVP Derrick Rose hampered by injuries all season.

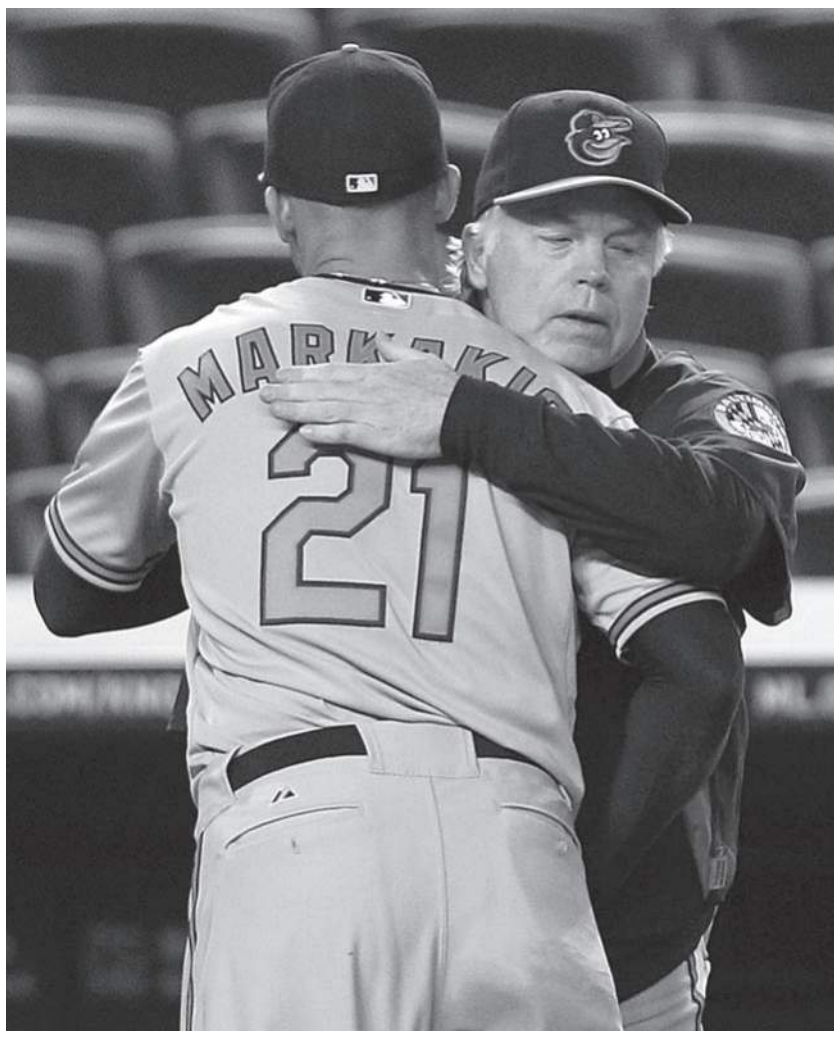
Showalter gets 1,000th win, Matusz ends skid

NEW YORK (AP)—Buck Showalter earned his 1,000th victory as a major league manager and Brian Matusz ended his 11-month losing streak as the Baltimore Orioles beat the New York Yankees 7-1 Tuesday night.

Chris Davis and J.J. Hardy homered off struggling Phil Hughes (1-4), giving the Orioles their first win in five tries against the Yankees this year.

Showalter, whose first win came 20 years ago across the street at old Yankee Stadium when New York's Scott Sanderson beat Boston ace Roger Clemens, improved to 1,000-958 in 14 seasons with the Yankees, Arizona, Texas and Baltimore. He joined Dusty Baker, Bruce Bochy, Davey Johnson, Jim Leyland, Mike Scioscia and Bobby Valentine among active managers in the 1,000-win club.

Matusz (1-3) allowed six hits in 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time since beating Oakland last June 6. He had been 0-12 with a 10.47 ERA in 14 starts since, the longest active losing streak in the majors and one short of the Orioles record set by Mike Boddicker from 1987-88.



AP

Baltimore Orioles' Nick Markakis (21) embraces Orioles manager Buck Showalter after the Orioles defeated the New York Yankees 7-1, giving Showalter his 1,000th victory, in their baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Rays 3, Mariners 1

In St. Petersburg, Matt Joyce had two of Tampa Bay's three hits, a solo homer and an RBI triple, to help the surging Rays beat Seattle for their ninth victory in 10 games.

Tampa Bay rookie Matt Moore (1-1) scattered seven hits over five innings to get the win, which kept the first-place Rays atop the AL East standings.

Michael Saunders hit a solo homer and Jesus Montero went 4 for 4 for Seattle, but the Mariners were 0 for 5 with runners in scoring position. They have lost four straight following a four-game winning streak.

Joyce tripled off starter Hector Noesi (1-3) and scored on Luke Scott's sacrifice fly for a 2-0 lead in the first. Joyce's team-leading sixth homer made it 3-1 in the third.

Burke Badenhop and Joel Peralta combined for three scoreless innings out of Tampa Bay's bullpen. Fernando Rodney struck out the side in the ninth to earn his eighth save in eight opportunities.

The Rays played without third baseman Evan Longoria, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list before the game with a partially torn left hamstring. The three-time All-Star is expected to be sidelined four to eight weeks.

Blue Jays 8, Rangers 7

In Toronto, Brett Lawrie homered leading off the ninth inning to give the Blue Jays a comeback victory over Texas.

Francisco Cordero blew a save opportunity in the top of the ninth, but Lawrie won it in the bottom half against Mike Adams (0-1) with a shot that bounced off the top of the wall in left-center, his third.

It was the second Blue Jays homer of the game to bounce off the wall and out: Kelly Johnson's three-run shot in the third did the same.

Jose Bautista also connected for Toronto, which rallied from 5-0 down to beat the team with the best record in baseball.

Cordero (1-1) allowed Michael Young's tying single in the ninth.

Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton (back) sat out for the second straight game and remains day to day.

Tigers 9, Royals 3

In Detroit, Austin Jackson had four hits and Rick Porcello pitched eight strong innings to lead the Tigers past Kansas City.

The Tigers scored five runs in the first and won for only the third time in 11 games. Porcello (2-2) took advantage of the offensive support to snap out of his slump, allowing three runs and seven hits. In his previous two starts, the right-hander was 0-2 with a 15.26 ERA.

Luke Hochevar (2-2) yielded nine runs on 12 hits and three walks in four innings.

The teams were washed out Monday night, Kansas City's second rainout in three days. The Royals have lost two straight following a three-game winning streak that came on the heels of a 12-game skid.

Athletics 5, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Jarrod Parker scattered four hits over 6 2-3 innings for his first major league win and Oakland stopped a three-game skid by beating Boston.

Jemile Weeks ended on 0-for-12 slump with a leadoff single and finished 2 for 5 with two RBIs and two runs for the A's. Oakland scored the first five runs to back Parker (1-0), who made his third career start on a frigid night at Fenway Park.

Mike Aviles hit a two-run single in the ninth before Jordan Norberto got two outs for his first major league save.

Red Sox starter Felix Doubront (1-1) gave up five runs and six hits in four innings.

Angels 4, Twins 0

In Anaheim, Jerome Williams pitched a three-hitter for his second major league shutout and Torii Hunter homered for the fourth time in five games to lead Los Angeles over struggling Minnesota.

Howie Kendrick also went deep against Francisco Liriano (0-4), but Albert Pujols was 0 for 4 with a run-scoring groundout. The three-time NL MVP has gone a career-worst 31 games and 125 at-bats since his last home run on Sept. 22, 2011, with St. Louis.

Williams (2-1) threw 109 pitches, striking out six and retiring 18 of his last 19 batters to finish in an economical 2 hours, 10 minutes. It was his third complete game in 81 career starts. His other shutout was on June 27, 2003, with the Giants, a seven-hitter against Oakland in his sixth big league start.

The 30-year-old right-hander from Honolulu faced only one batter more than the minimum before walking Denard Span with two outs in the ninth.

The Twins have lost eight of nine and have a major league-worst 6-17 record.

White Sox 7, Indians 2

In Chicago, Gordon Beckham broke out of a slump with three hits and Chicago beat Cleveland on a rainy, fog-filled night in the Windy City.

Beckham was mired in a 0-for-10 slide and was batting just .153 before he belted a solo homer in the third inning to give the White Sox a 2-1 lead. He also singled in a run in the fifth.

A.J. Pierzynski also had a solo homer for Chicago, which is 3-0 against Cleveland this season. Chris Sale (3-1) allowed one run and three hits in six crisp innings.

Shelley Duncan connected for Cleveland, snapping the team's 11-game homerless streak. Ubaldo Jimenez (2-2) issued six walks in 4 2-3 innings and was charged with seven runs, four earned.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 6

In Denver, Ted Lilly threw six solid innings and the Los Angeles Dodgers got home runs from Dee Gordon, Andre Ethier and A.J. Ellis in a win over the Colorado Rockies.

Lilly gave up four hits and two runs while the Dodgers pounded out 11 hits off Rockies right-hander Jhoulys Chacin and then held on despite a shaky bullpen performance. The victory capped a big day for the storied franchise that marked the end to the tumultuous Frank McCourt era.

The $2 billion sale of the team to Guggenheim Baseball Management, a group that includes former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson, was finalized Tuesday, just hours before the Dodgers improved to an NL-best 17-7.

Lilly (3-0) improved to 9-2 against the Rockies. Javy Guerra worked the ninth for his eighth save in 10 chances.

Chacin (0-3) allowed seven runs in 4 2-3 innings. He struck out three and walked four.

Diamondbacks 5, Nationals 1

In Washington, Trevor Cahill took a four-hit shutout into the eighth inning to help Arizona beat Washington to stretch the Nationals' losing streak to five games.

Teenager Bryce Harper went 0 for 3 in his home debut for the Nationals. Harper, the No. 1 pick in the 2010 draft, is 2 for 9 since being recalled from the minors on Saturday.

Cahill (2-2) allowed one run and six hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Justin Upton had two hits and two RBIs, and John McDonald and Miguel Montero each had two hits and an RBI for the Diamondbacks.

Jordan Zimmermann (1-2) gave up four runs, three earned, in 6 1-3 innings for Washington, which has scored only seven runs during its skid.

Cardinals 10, Pirates 7

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright worked seven innings for his first win since September 2010, and the Cardinals got big nights at the plate from David Freese and Matt Holliday.

Freese's sixth home run and third in five games was a tiebreaking three-run shot off Charlie Morton (1-2) in the fifth. Holliday homered in the sixth off Jared Hughes to cap a three-hit night with two RBIs.

Allen Craig had two hits and an RBI in his season debut after rehabbing from knee surgery performed last fall shortly after he belted three homers in the World Series. Wainwright (1-3) allowed four runs and five hits.

Jose Tabata and Pedro Alvarez each hit a two-run homer for Pittsburgh.

Marlins 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Giancarlo Stanton homered for the second time in three games to help back Ricky Nolasco's third straight win, helping Miami earned its second victory in 10 games.

Hanley Ramirez had an RBI single in the fourth that ended Matt Cain's home scoreless streak to start the season at 21 innings.

Nolasco (3-0) outdueled Cain (1-2) in the Marlins' sixth victory against the Giants in their last eight meetings—a stretch that includes Nolasco's 2-1 win over Cain last Aug. 12 in South Florida.

Struggling Miami closer Heath Bell pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save in six chances and first since walking a career-high four batters and taking his third loss Thursday in a 3-2 road loss to the Mets.

Pablo Sandoval homered for the Giants.

Padres 2, Brewers 0

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Mark Kotsay belted a two-run homer with one out in the eighth, lifting San Diego to the victory.

Kotsay, who played with Milwaukee last year, drove a 1-1 pitch from Francisco Rodriguez (0-3) to right field. Will Venable was aboard on a single.

It was Kotsay's fourth career pinch homer and his first since Aug. 9, 2002, at Cincinnati during his first stint with the Padres.

Milwaukee's Ryan Braun, who had his first three-homer game and added a triple for six RBIs in Monday night's 8-3 win, went 1 for 4 with a single.

Edinson Volquez tossed seven innings of three-hit ball before Andrew Cashner (2-1) pitched the eighth for the win. Huston Street closed it out for his fourth save in four chances, finishing a three-hitter for the Padres' first shutout of the season.

Phillies 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, John Mayberry Jr. doubled and scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, and Philadelphia beat in the first meeting of the season between the NL East rivals.

After Brandon Beachy gave up only two runs in seven innings to outlast Phillies starter Cole Hamels, Philadelphia broke a 2-2 tie with two runs against left-hander Jonny Venters (2-1).

Mayberry, in the game as a pinch hitter, doubled to right with one out, moved to third on Jimmy Rollins' single and scored on Venters' wild pitch to Placido Polanco. Shane Victorino added an infield hit and Hunter Pence singled to right, driving in Rollins for a 4-2 lead.

Antonio Bastardo (1-1) pitched a perfect seventh. Jonathan Papelbon earned his ninth save by retiring the Braves in order in the ninth.

Astros 6, Mets 3

In Houston, Chris Snyder hit a three-run homer and Jed Lowrie added a two-run shot to power Houston to the victory.

Lowrie's drive off Jonathon Niese hit the inside of the foul pole in left field in the first inning. Snyder pushed the lead to 5-0 in the next inning with his first home run of the season, which landed in the Crawford Boxes in left field.

Houston has won the first two games of this three-game series. The Astros had lost six consecutive series entering Monday.

Niese (2-1) allowed a season-high five runs and six hits in three innings.

Houston starter J.A. Happ (2-1) allowed six hits and three runs with seven strikeouts in 6 1-3 innings, which was his longest outing of the year. Brett Myers threw a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Blue Haus caging returns on May 12

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2012 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League is moving over to Garapan Basketball Court this year when its sophomore season kicks off on May 12.

Opening night begins at 5pm with an opening ceremony followed by a basketball doubleheader.

Last year's inaugural season was held nearby at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court where Cell Pro reigned over 14 other squads.

However, there is a whole new mix of teams this time around.

A total of 14 teams make up this year's field, which will be randomly split into A and B divisions via a raffle drawing held during the opening ceremony and parade of teams. Last year was formatted with three five-team divisions.

All teams are requested to be present and ready to play on opening night as the debut pairings will also be determined in the lottery.

In addition, a special Q&A session for the Best Muse competition will also take place where $50 will go to the winner.

Following the opening ceremony, the first game is set for 6pm with an 8:30pm night tiff.

This year's competing teams include NVM, Suriban, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Mawati, Mobil, Concept One/Tae Woo, Cargo Express, Satbahi, DLX Right Guard, Ashley, the Runnin' Rebels, Hip Hop Thunder, Star Water, and Saipan Hardware.

Each team is allowed to recruit up to three Unified Basketball Association players.

For more information, contact Dante Olivos at 233-1721 or 989-6286.

NMASA meeting set today

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will have its monthly meeting today, May 3, 7pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

As always, NMASA president Michael White said member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month (April) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student) during the monthly membership meeting.

White reminded associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

OL'ACES

From Page 28

Ol'Aces got one back from an error later in the third and pulled within a run, 2-3, in the top of the fourth inning from an RBI poke by Felipe Litlulumar that scored Jacob Flores.

Ol'Aces pitcher Jake Santos battled hard through the middle innings to keep the door open for his team.

They finally responded in the bottom of the fifth with four runs off five hits.

Leonard Sablan and Lemarc Iguel both hustled out a couple of errors and Harry Nakamura bashed a single to load the bases.

Sablan was driven home by Keoni Lizama and Rocco Reyes followed with a two-RBI base smash.

Reyes was caught in the path, but Jun Rabauliman brought in Lizama before the Hunters could stop the bleeding.

Hunters southpaw Joseph Atalig made it through the top of the sixth unscathed and then made it on and around in the bottom half to help his cause to shave the deficit to 4-6 heading into the last inning.

Hunters' Palacios came to the mound in the seventh and kept Ol'Aces at bay, but the home team only mustered one run in the final stand.

Winning pitcher Santos gave up just two earned runs in six and a third strong off 11 hits with two strikeouts.

Ol'Aces' Sablan batted 2-for-3 with two runs, Lizama swung 2-for-3 with an RBI, a run, and a base on balls. Hunters' Ray Camacho went 3-for-4 with a run.

Ol'Aces 14, Fielders 9

Ol'Aces pulled in front, 2-1, in the top of the third inning off an RBI single by Harry Nakamura followed with triple by Keoni Lizama.

The Fielders then tapped Nathan Guerrero to the mound to start the fourth inning

And he handled the bottom half of the Ol'Aces' lineup to get through the frame, but ran into trouble against the top of the order in the fifth inning.

Ol'Aces teed off for seven hits in the fifth inning and shot ahead, 9-1.

Nakamura bashed a two-RBI double, Jacob Flores and Leonard Sablan bagged RBI singles, and Lemarc Iguel a two-RBI base rip.

The Fielders salvaged three runs in the bottom frame off an error, a pair of RBI base hits by Carl Camacho and Marvin Ngeskebei, but were still far from out of the woods.

Ol'Aces moved forward, 11-4, in the top of the sixth off a couple of fielder's choices and then had to deal with the Fielders' last-ditch battle cry.

With their backs against the wall the Fielders mustered five runs in the bottom portion off four hits. Guerrero belted a two-RBI single and scored off an error before Ben Lizama and Tenorio both reached and stole the plate.

Ol'Aces took the punch and slapped them back with three runs in the top of the seventh off some errors and a double by Rocco Reyes. The Fielders went limp in the final stand.

Ol'Aces' Nakamura batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs, three runs, and a stolen base

Hunters 5, Fielders 4

Hunters' Joseph Palacios led off with a base hit and scored off a passed ball to break the ice in the second inning.

Then later in the fourth, Hunters' Eloy Cruz drove home Palacios who led off the inning with a free pass.

The Fielders escaped with the bases loaded, but came up empty for the fifth time in a row at the plate against Hunters' lefty Palacios.

Hunters' Joseph Atalig led off the fifth with a double and was brought in by Palmerson Monkeya to extend the lead to 3-0.

The Fielders finally got something going in the top of the sixth and pulled within a run off a trio of hits. Patrick Tenorio led off with a single and was tripled home by Marvin Ngeskebei who ended making it home off a wild throw to third base.

Hunters wanted it bad and wiped away the two runs in the bottom frame with some aggressive base running and held the Fielders to two runs in the final stand.

Winning pitcher Palacios went the distance and gave up three earned runs off six hits, three walks, and a couple of hit batsmen with five strikeouts.

Hunters' Lincoln Ingram batted 3-for-3 with a run. Fielders' Tenorio went 3-for-4 with an RBI and a run.

SENIOR LEAGUE
Enforcers 7, Lions 6

A two-RBI base rip by Lions' Bret Halstead made it 2-1 after the opening frame, but the Enforcers' Enrique Itibus briefly tied it at deuces in the fourth with a double that scored Sid Nepaial.

The Lions roared back in the bottom half with four runs.

Two one-out walks set up an RBI base knock for Catalina Dela Cruz and Austin Agulto later stole home. Then another run came in off an error and Dave Matagolai bagged an RBI single before the Enforcers could get of dodge.

After a quiet fifth, Enforcers' Itibus scored Vince Cabrera and Nepaial with a clutch single and relief pitcher Austin Petig did a great job containing the pride through the late innings.

The Enforcers clawed back to tie it in the top of the seventh with an RBI double by Lofton Edward and a sacrifice fly by Cabrera.

Enforcers' Petig led off the bonus frame with a single and stole the dish for the go-ahead run and hung tough on the mound to secure the win.

He gave up just two hits and a walk in 4 2/3 scoreless innings.

Enforcers' Itibus batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs. Matt Lisua went 3-for-4 and Edward swung 2-for-3 with two RBIs, a run, and a base on balls.

TWO-WAY

From Page 28

sluggers over their particular Junior and Senior League fields, although there was some shifting in both leagues' pitching ranks as of late, which left DPS-Dare Program-Leep-Enforcers' Caleb Takao and IT&E Fielders' Keoni Kaipat as the new ERA leaders of their respective Junior and Senior fields.

Ol'Aces' Nakamura has bashed 15 hits in 30 at bats, while Tenorio is swinging 18-for-36 for identical 0.500 batting averages.

Sen. Ralph DLG Torres-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions' Leroy Regis (13-28/0.464), Hustlers-duo Camacho (16-36/0.444) and Jeremy Lizama (13-30/0.433), Fielders' Carl Camacho (12-28/0.429), Hustlers' Manny Flores (17-40/0.425), Kevin Villagomez (14-33/0.424), and MacGarette Duenas (11-26/0.423), and Ol'Aces' Keoni Lizama (13-31/0.419) round out the Top 10, while Ol'Aces' Rocco Reyes (12-29/0.414) is on the bubble as the only other player above 0.400 with four players swinging over 0.350 and four others above 0.300; statistics were based on at least 22 at bats.

Keoni Lizama's three homers still leads the long ball race, while Nakamura's 12 RBIs fronts the pack ahead of Keoni Lizama (11), Villagomez (11), and Flores (10).

Tenorio and Hustlers' McJarrel Espina lead the league in triples with four apiece, while Nakamura and teammate Diego Camacho share the lead in doubles with five each.

Diego Camacho remains the man to beat in runs scored with 14.

In pitching, Brian Camacho (3-0) has allowed 10 earned runs through 36 innings off 28 hits (9 Games) for a stout ERA of 1.94.

Nakamura (3.62 ERA) and Regis (5.35 ERA) are the only other pitchers with at least 27 innings on the mound.

Brian Camcho's 56 strikeouts towers over Regis (37), Nakamura (34), and Fielders' Nathan Guerrero (32).

Junior Ol'Aces' Muna has accrued 15 hits in 22 at bats for a remarkable 0.682 hitting rate and holds the top spot by over 100 points.

Teammate Jessie Brel (18-31/0.581), Saipan Shipping Company-Jets' K.J. Deleon Guerrero (15-26/0.577), IT&E Fielders' Kainoa Wanket (13-24/0.542), Bank of Saipan Red Sox's Roke Tenorio (14-28/0.500), Jets' Franco Nakamura (14-29/0.483), Enforcers' Darrion Jones (13-28/0.464), Jets' Ben Maratita (11-25/0.440), Red Sox's Jhace Palacios (14-32/0.438), and Takao (13-30/0.433) fill out the Junior Top 10 with four other players swinging better than 0.400; statistics were based on at least 21 at bats.

Muna's 12 RBIs paces the field ahead of teammate Verlance Secharmidal (11), Nakamura (10), and Wanket (10), while Nakamura, Secharmidal and Jones are all knotted up in the home run quest with two apiece.

Nakamura and Jones also share the lead in triples with four each, while Muna holds doubles honors with six.

Brel's 23 runs leads Muna (20), Red Sox's Jerald Cabrera (16), and Secharmedal (16).

In pitching, Takao (1-3) has given up nine earned runs through 20 innings (six games) off 22 hits for an ERA of 3.15.

Jets' Jason Villagomez (5.68 ERA) is the only other pitcher with at least 20 innings of work. He also leads in strikeouts with 33 ahead of Ol'Aces' Terson Eina (27), Natibu-Talaabwogh Falcons' J.J. Lifoifoi (23), Takao (21), and Wanket (20).

Senior Falcons' Lieto has cracked 16 hits in 24 at bats and stands tall with a 0.667 batting average. He also holds the No. 1 spot in his division by over 100 points.

Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera-Hunters' Steven Cabrera (19-34/0.559), Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces' A.J. Lizama (20-37/0.541), Sen. Ralph Torres-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions' Paul Celis (14-27/0.519), Hunters' Jesus Mafnas (12-24/0.500), Juan Santiago-Jets II's Jeffrey Lizama (18-37/0.486), Fielders' Khobby Kaipat (16/33-0.485), Ol'Aces' T.J. Sablan (14-29/0.483), Falcons' Raymond Saralu (12-25/0.481), and Ol'Aces' Frankie Camacho (13-28/0.464) make up the rest of the Top 10 in the Seniors with seven other players swinging 0.400 or higher. Statistics were based on a minimum of 24 at bats.

Ol'Aces' Jun Rabauliman leads in RBIs with 15, while Jets II's Shane Deleon Guerrero and Hunters' Joseph Borja are tied in home runs with three apiece.

A.J. Lizama's six triples heads the category, while there is a six-horse race for the senior doubles title.

Fielders' Poland Masaharu has tallied 19 runs thus far and is edging out A.J. Lizama (18), Ol'Aces' Lancaster Secharmidal (18), Hunters' Jerome Reyes (17), Steven Cabrera (17), Saipan Shippping Company-Jets I's Mathew Maeda (17), and three others with 16 apiece.

On the mound, Fielders' Keoni Kaipat (2-1) has allowed 13 earned runs through 22 innings (five games) off 17 hits for an ERA of 4.14.

Ol'Aces' standout A.J. Lizama (4.32ERA) and Lions' Davie Matagolai (10.03 ERA) are the only other pitchers with at least 22 innings under their belt.

A.J. Lizama's 38 strikeouts trumps Keoni Kaipat (27), Matagolai (24), Enforcers' Lofton Edward (20), and Jeffrey Lizama (20).

THEA

From Page 28

kano also got the better of Ackerman and Ramsey, 8-5, 6-1, in the weekend's final match in the age group.

In the boys 13-and-under, Michael Jones and Tony Atalig barged into the winner's circle with 6-1, 6-1 thumping of Rintaro Miyawaki and Kevin Kim.

The tandems of Steven Goodwin and Michael Ren and Haruyo Eda and Vincent Tudela, meanwhile, didn't have to break a sweat following walkover wins over Jeremy Seo and Eugene Park.

Jones and Atalig also scored a victory over the absent Seo and Park. Goodwin and Ren then scored another win when they beat Miyawaki and Kim, 6-0, 6-0.

The pairings of Emily Jones and Neghar Rastguiy, Liza and Carol Atalig, Tania Tan and Mini Sakano, and Ami Tsukagoshi and Malika Miyawaki, meanwhile, advanced to the semis of the girls 13-and-under doubles.

Jones and Ratguiy moved to the semifinals after a quick 6-1, 6-0 victory over Grace Choi and Hana Nelson. The two Ataligs, meanwhile, scraped a 6-2, 6-3 win over Jiren Warren and Asia Raulerson to reach the Final Four.

Tan and Sakano made it to the semis with a 6-2, 6-1 triumph against Coume Kaga and R. Ojima.

Tan and Sakano later defeated Tsukagoshi and Malika Miyawaki in an early semis duel, 6-2, 6-1, to book a place in the finals.

After the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will compile all rankings to determine the CNMI's representatives to the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June.

The Top 5 players in the ranking list in the U15 and U12 age groups and Top 4 in the U18 will earn slots on the team.

YOUTH

From Page 28

is $100 per team; uniforms are optional but teammates must at least suit up in the same colors. If teams do not have uniforms, color code sleeves will be provided during games.

The required roster and waiver forms can be obtained at Safety 1st System on Middle Road in Gualo Rai or at the Garapan Community Guidance Center next to the basketball court.

The deadline to submit roster and entrance fee(s) is May 25.

For more information, contact UBA's James Lee at 482-0290, RBC's Joe Diaz at 285-4141, or email unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com.

2012 Mahi Fishing Derby

PHOTOS By
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Pare's Enrique Baruela, third left, and Jack Sablan, third right, finished as runners-ups in the Saipan Fishermen Association's 2012 Mahi Fishing Derby held last April 14 at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Fish Hunter's Steve Reyes, center, and anglers, from second right, Pat Takeda and Andy Pesimo finished third place overall in the competition.

Fish Hunter's Steve Reyes brought a couple of 20-pounders to the scale.

Bonita's Pedro Deleon Guerrero poses with his 18.30-lb catch.

Tweety angler George David shows off their 18.15-lb mahi.

Joker II's Manding legaspi, third left, and Ranie Soriano, second right, gladly took fourth place honors.

From left, *Joker II* anglers Justin Casama and Ranie Soriano display an array of potential winners.

San Antonio angler Alberto R. Rago, left, stands with their 18.80-lb entrant.

Joker IV captain Mario Barit graciously accepts fifth prize from the SFA committee. Presenters included Mar Pac's Melvin Tenorio and SFA officers Gene Weaver, Arnold Palacios, Juan Morgen Tenorio, and Mike Sablan.

From left, *Joker III*'s Antonio Barit and angler Frank Codog pose with their 16.75-lb wahoo, left, and 18.85-lb mahi entrants.

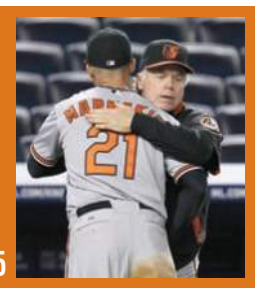
From second left, *Fish Hunter* captain Steve Reyes and anglers Pat Tekeda and Andy Pesimo accept the wahoo side bet prize from SFA's Gene Weaver.

Lakers hold off Nuggets to take 2-0 series lead

24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Showalter gets 1,000th win, Matusz ends skid



25

Ol'Aces bounces back in Big League

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces rebounded from last week's loss to archrival Paradise Island Animal Hospital-Hustlers (7-3) with a couple of fresh wins as the Saipan Little League's Big Division 2012 season winds down at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The defending champions willed their way to a 6-5 comeback win over the St. Michael's Medical Response-Hunters (3-7) just after outlasting the IT&E Fielders (5-5), 14-9, Sunday evening to improve its win-loss record to 8-4.

Tuesday's match was a tough break for the Hunters who were riding high after upsetting the Fielders, 5-4, last Saturday.

The Fielders took a pretty big blow, although they are still a virtual lock for a playoff spot with the Sen. Ralph Torres-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P.DL Guerrero- Kagman Lions on a skid after managing only two wins and nine games.

Also on Tuesday, the Marianas Cable Vision-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions let one get away, 6-7, to the DPS Dare Program-Leep-Enforcers in the Senior League.

In the Junior League, Division of Youth Services-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions (0-8) takes on the Natibu Sports Association Falcons (3-4) at the Tan Ko Field today at 4pm followed by the Hustlers against the Lions at 6:30pm.

BIG DIVISION
Ol'Aces 6, Hunters 5

Hunters established an early 3-0 lead in the first inning off four hits as Jesse Deleon Guerrero and Joseph Palacios bagged RBI singles.

See OL'ACES on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces' Lemarc Iguel waits for a pitch in their Big Leagu ematchup against the St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Two-way tie for Big League batting title

Tenorio

Nakamura

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific-Ol'Aces' Harry Nakamura has some company atop the Big League's batting chart as IT&E Fielders' Patrick Tenorio has moved up for a share of the lead, according to the most recent set of statistics released this past Saturday.

On the mound, Nakamura's Earned Run Average has increased slightly, but he still remains in second place behind Paradise Island Animal Hospital's young gun Brian Camacho, who is also faring well at the plate in fourth place.

Hawaiya Technologies, Inc.-Ol'Aces Mike Muna and Natibu Sports Association-Talaabwogh Falcons' Francisco Lieto remain the supreme

See TWO-WAY on Page 26

Thea, Christian roll in boys U18 doubles

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Top seed Thea Minor and Christian Miller are playing beautiful music together, so far winning two matches in the boys 18-and-under doubles of the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

The two-weekend tournament, which is the last local event that awards ranking points to junior players, got rolling over the weekend at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Minor and Miller started the tournament in dominating fashion, beating Seiya Eda and Amami Sakano in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0.

The No. 1 pair was supposed to get stiffer competition against the tandem of Carl Dela Cruz and Cris Cajigan, but only got anxious moments in the opening set.

With their opponents working double time, Minor and Miller were challenged but eventually won the first set, 7-5.

Tuckered out from overexerting themselves in the first set, Dela Cruz and Cajigan seemingly waved the white flag of surrender in losing the second set, 6-0.

Dela Cruz and Cajigan earlier got more than they bargained for during their opening round assignment against Dylan Ackerman and Colin Ramsey.

The two narrowly escaped the opening set, 6-4, as their opponents played with gusto. Ackerman and Ramsey continued to play splendidly in the second set and had their moments before Dela Cruz and Cajigan leveled up and took the match with a hard-earned 6-3 win in the second set.

In other results, Rafael Jones and Jake Lee made their intentions known with a clinical 6-1, 6-0 victory over Ackerman and Ramsey.

Eda and Sa-

See THEA on Page 26

Tops seed Thea Minor, left, and Christian Miller went 2-0 in the boys 18-and-under doubles as the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships started last weekend.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Youth Summer caging tips off June 1

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Unified Basketball Association is gearing up for the third edition of its Summer Youth Basketball League, which is scheduled to start on June 1 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Its first series started back in 2009, headlined as the Docomo Pacific Summer Youth League and the event took a pause in 2010 mainly because of that year's Micronesian Games.

UBA organizer James Lee was—and still is—a member of the CNMI national basketball team that competed in quadrennial competition, which was held in Palau. The league picked back up this past year and Lee is eager to get things going again.

"This league has always been strictly for the youth. It gives them something to do during their summer break, which is why we're try our best to keep the entrance fee and other expenses for the teams as low as possible," said Lee in an email.

He also shared news that the UBA is partnering this year with Rollers Basketball Club.

The RBC is fielding two of its squads (U15A and U14B) to take part for the first time ever in the Philippines in the upcoming 2012 Manila-Pacific Rim Goodwill Games slated from July 23 to July 30. Thus, a portion of the funds generated will be donated to the youngsters.

Following the opener, games will run the next day and continue from thereon weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Monday and Wednesday dates will hold one game per night with double features set over the weekend, however the schedules per division have not been finalized.

The league will consist of a U17 and a U25 division and will utilize a round robin format, but the playoff format will depend on the turnout.

The entrance fee to participate

See YOUTH on Page 26